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PRO FOOTBALL'S LEADING MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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Joe Namath: THE \$500,000 CHALLENGE

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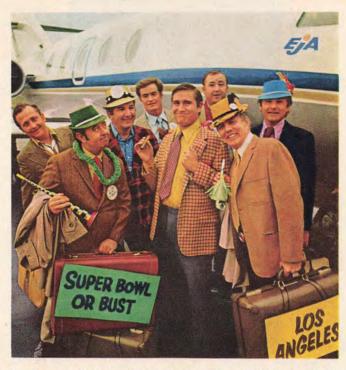
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Willie Davis

Over the years, since the spotlight has been turned on the defensive unit, the front fours have taken on many names and characters. Many times, the image a front four creates for itself can almost be a direct result of the defensive principle of the head coach or the coach who is in charge of the defense.

Some teams, for example, allow their front fours to go for the quarter-back at the snap of the ball. The Rams did this under George Allen and the Lions have been this kind of team over the years. They will take the screen and draw responsibilities away from the front four most of the time and free those people to go for the quarterback.

That kind of front four freedom usually develops a more consistent and a greater pass rush. But a team really can do this without being hurt badly only if it has very good line-backers who read exceptionally well and who really don't drop very deep on the short pass.

At Green Bay, for example, we always had big, strong linebackers who would drop to the deep coverage underneath very well, so we didn't have as much freedom on the line as, say, the Rams.

What it comes down to is that if a team plays a more structured defense, where the linemen's assignments are very definite, there's less chance of getting hurt with a big play. A team with a freewheeling front four, on the other hand, is gambling on getting to the quarterback or forcing the quarterback out of a pattern that he'd prefer to establish. In other words, the quarterback might not be able to call the deep passes he wants to or he has to keep more people back to block.

Some teams, of course, take a balanced approach to the way they use the front four. When I was with the Packers, for instance, we concentrated a lot on yardage-and-down situations and studied the habits of teams and the frequency with which they did things—where they liked to do things and when they liked to do them. We'd try and evaluate all of this before the ball was snapped and react accordingly.

In predictable passing situations, I'd say the ends at Green Bay had as much freedom as anyone to rush the passer. Some of the greatest moments I had came in third-and-15 type situations because you just knew most quarterbacks were going to put the ball in the air and you could put everything else out of your mind. You just went with the snap of the ball for the quarterback.

Front fours today are a little different than they were when I came into the league. At that time they basically just lined up and physically took on the man in front of them. It was mostly a matter of who had the most strength or was in the best condition in the man-to-man combat. Today, though, there's more finesse up front. Most teams have an arsenal of stunts and sophisticated blitzes that really tax the offense to pick up all the variations the defense can run at them.

Generally speaking, I think the front four almost determines a team's entire defensive effort. For instance, if a team is completing passes and moving down the field, everyone starts saying the defensive back isn't covering as well as he did last week.

But many times that isn't the case at all. It's a matter of the front four being blocked well enough that no one is creating the pressure that makes the quarterback throw before he wants to throw.

Conversely, if a quarterback calls a pass play that is predicated on him throwing the ball no more than 3.2 seconds after the snap and the front four gets to him in 3 seconds, it's forcing the quarterback to do something before the receiver has had time to run his pattern.

So when the ball is thrown high or in an open area, you might say the quarterback is off tonight or someone is covering well, but many times it's because the front four has forced the quarterback to throw before he was ready.

Over the last few years, I would say the Los Angeles front four has been as devastating as any, but over-all, I think today Minnesota—with Jim Marshall, Carl Eller, Alan Page and Gary Larsen—ranks as the finest front four in football. I rate them that way for several reasons, and one of them is that they get a tremendous inside rush from Page, which I think is the real key to the outside people getting their job done.

If you don't get that inside rush, the quarterback can disappear right up inside and all your work goes for naught. But when you get that good inside rush, the quarterback has no place to go. With a guy like Page, he's through there so quick he's actually forcing the quarterback out to those outside people.

This is why a coordinated effort is so important. If you take one guy, I don't care how great he is, his greatness is minimized if he's only one guy on one side of the line.

The Dallas Cowboys have a very fine coordinated rush. Bob Lilly is probably their best rusher and he gets doubled a lot inside, but George Andrie and Larry Cole get great penetration from the outside and Jethro Pugh plays so well that sometimes they have to double team him, too. When teams do that, they can't get as many people in the pass pattern as they would like so the secondary can cover better.

Right behind Minnesota and Dallas, I would put the Rams' front four and after them, I'd rank Baltimore, San Francisco and Kansas City. Denver's front four doesn't rank as high as those, but it's a good one, and San Diego probably has one of the most improved units.

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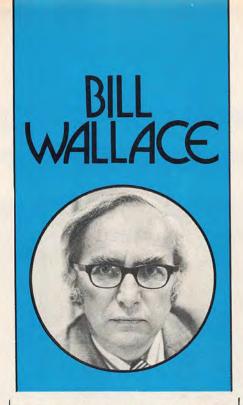
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■ Thirteen of the Kansas City Chiefs' 22 starting players are blacks. Twenty per cent of the city's population is black. Yet when you scan the audience of 79,000 at the new Arrowhead Stadium during a Chiefs' game you can hardly find any blacks at all.

Several of the Chiefs live all year around in Kansas City and among the young people of the inner city there are no greater heroes than Otis Taylor and Willie Lanier. But the only way these fans can see their stars perform is by means of television when the Chiefs are on the road. It just isn't the same.

At Arrowhead, they have these suites along the mezzanine deck which are decorated in modern motel motif. You can rent one of these suites for \$6,000 to \$18,000 annually, game tickets extra. If you do so, you can use the suite any time, even sleep in it if you wish.

The only blacks likely to see the inside of these suites are those hired as bartenders.

Arrowhead is cited for this social divisiveness only because of its newness and the striking contrasts of the roles the Chiefs play in Kansas City. But what is true at Arrowhead is also true elsewhere in the United States.

Pro football belongs to the rich and near rich. It certainly does not belong to the poor who supply it with so many players.

Arrowhead is a stadium financed by the voters of Jackson County who approved a bond issue. Lamar Hunt, the Chiefs' owner, added \$9.5 million of his own to make things right after the stadium authority ran out of money. The Chiefs have a contract to run the stadium and they control everything. They sold 70,000 season tickets and over half were purchased by residents of Johnson County, a rich suburban area in Kansas.

If Lanier and Taylor are the heroes within the scraggly black shacks on the hill around the old Municipal Stadium, then Lenny Dawson is revered out in Johnson County where kids with minibikes wear his number, 16.

There are many blacks in the National Football League and some of them, like Ken Brown of Cleveland and Charlie Leigh of Miami who never went to college, have limited qualifications to make a living outside of pro football. That is also true of whites redshirted in college who never finished the requirements for the degree in P.E. But it is a lot tougher for unqualified blacks to get into the economic mainstream.

Therefore an anonymous member of the Chiefs, looking into those vast crowds at Arrowhead while searching for a soul brother, might well conclude that he is merely a pawn, a black pawn. He is in 1972 not very different than the gladiators, who were slaves, used by the rich Romans for entertainment during an earlier civilization which toppled. There are better feelings in life than acknowledging your body is being exploited.

Cannot pro football do better? Mark Duncan has hired some more black officials. There are more black assistant coaches—Al Tabor and Willie Wood come to mind-and an occasional dark skin in the front offices.

But the problem is presenting the product more evenly to groups representative of the community. In a word,

The clubs are in business to sell tickets at the highest feasible prices, a policy entirely understandable but one which wipes out most of the blacks who cannot afford to buy.

Pete Rozelle and the rest of the N.F.L. establishment are proud of their drug addiction commercials seen on television. The league assumes it has the credibility for its players, many black, to advise against using drugs; that it has a leadership role to play; that it sets examples.

This is a totally hypocritical outlook when the N.F.L. at the same time effectively prohibits from attending games those who could best accept the drug advice; who could use a little leadership and belief in achievement.

The N.F.L. should adopt a policy that mandates each club to set aside 5,000 tickets for every home game, tickets to be made available to young, disadvantaged fans who otherwise could never see a game.

The Washington Redskins, whose tickets in a city 95 per cent black go almost entirely to whites with political pull, tried to get tickets to ghetto kids a few seasons back.

"We just couldn't put together a system," reported one official, Dave Slattery. "We set aside a special section and when you looked out there you saw an awful lot of kids with beards.'

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PRO QUARTERBACK invites and welcomes comments from its readers. Feel free to speak your mind; we'll print letters both complimentary and critical (although we may disagree with you!). Mail your comments to: Kick-off Editor, S.C.H. Publications, 39 West 55th St., New York, N.Y. 10019.

Dear Sir:

I agree with Alex Karras; why should a football player, say Willie Lanier, play his heart out 82 minutes and 39 seconds, then, watch a 5'8", 172 lb. Cypriot, who never even played football as an amateur, walk on the field and win the game with his foot? True, the name of the game is football, but there are so many other aspects of the game; running, blocking, passing, catching. They are all more physically demanding and important than kicking. Did I say more important? Evidently, as seen in the Miami-Kansas City game of last year, kicking is at least as important and probably more important than the skills mentioned above.

In three out of the four sudden death games ever played, the outcome has been decided by one of these individuals, who, someone has estimated, spends an average of about 5 minutes on the field a season. The leading scorer is almost always a kicker and the all-time point man is George Blanda, a kicker. As well as the sudden death games, Super Bowl V was decided by a field goal and Super Bowl III would have been a tie without Jim Turner's golden toe. The list goes on and on. The number of games won by a field goal in the closing seconds is endless.

The field goal has become too important in the game of football. The NFL owners met this spring in Honolulu to discuss rule changes. There are, at the moment, two possible revisions pertaining to the field goal. The goal posts could be moved back to the end line or the point value could vary with the length of the kick.

I feel the variable point value field goal would not be the answer. On certain kicks, a field goal could be worth as much as a touchdown, according to some of these proposals. Moving the goalposts back ten yards to the end line, on the other hand, would not affect point value and would stop field goals from being such a routine affair.

This is not the perfect solution to the field goal problem, but until a perfect one is proposed, I feel it is the only sensible step the NFL can take to reduce the importance of the field goal. The League should put back the excitement which has been taken away by the scientific approach to kicking. If they don't, the game will lose its excitement, along with its fans, and without fans, there would be no game of football.

David Curry Denver, Colorado

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you for your opinion. A lot of people agree with you. How do the rest of our readers feel about this issue?



Dear Sir:

In your May issue of PQ I read three very interesting articles by three very uninformed young men. The first was by Al Comolli of San Francisco, California. In this article, he criticized Mike Goldberg's excellent article on the Rams. He stated that the reason Jim Johnson didn't make many interceptions is because quarterbacks were afraid to throw in his direction. However, the real reason he didn't make many interceptions, is because he played with an injured wrist for part of the season. Sure, Johnson is a fine cornerback, but not so good as to stop a quarterback from throwing in his direction.

In his article, he also criticized Mike's comment on the Ram running backs. I think that the Rams and the 49ers both have very good setbacks, mainly due to the fact that they were very close in total yards gained rushing. (Rams, 2139) (49ers, 2129). He also said that the 49ers had a better defensive line than the Rams. He did not however, take into account the fact that the Rams had one less sack of the quarterback than the 49ers (38 to 37) and the Rams played with two rookies in their defensive line. Niner Power, HAH, what a laugh!

In the second article on the 49ers (written by a John von der Lieth of Lafayette, California) it was stated that John Brodie threw for a better percentage of completions, more yardage, and more touchdowns than Roman Gabriel of the Rams. However, in each of these categories Brodie was ahead by only a very little, and don't forget that Bro-

die had more attempts and more than twice as many interceptions against weaker teams. The reason the Rams had only Willie Ellison in the top ten is because they had a more diversified running attack than the 49ers. For instance, besides Ellison, Josephson, and Smith, the Rams had Lance Rentzel and Travis Williams who each had over a hundred yards rushing. The reason the Rams didn't have any receivers in the top ten is because they had a wider passing attack than the 49ers. For example, Snow had 37 receptions, Smith 31, Rentzel 38, Josephson 26, and Ellison 32. The Rams have such a good variety of receivers that they don't always have to throw to two people. Another thing, Brodie may have been sacked 11 times, but how many times was he called for intentional grounding? This also explains the fact that he had 24 interceptions, meaning that he got rid of the ball just before being sacked. Gossett scored more points than Ray because he had more attempts while the Rams had more TD's than the 49ers. Oh, and by the way, Merlin Olsen did play in the Pro Bowl game along with Isiah Robertson and the Rams didn't make it to the playoffs because they had a tougher schedule than the 49ers. They even beat the 49ers three times last year (pre-season included).

I would like to sum up the third article about the Rams and the 49ers written by DeWayne Bunch from Cleveland, Tenn. in a few short words by saying that he sure dreams a lot.

The other articles I read on the Rams were both good, especially Mike Goldberg's article on the Rams in which I agree that more articles should be published on the Rams in PQ, like an article on Jack Snow or the Rams, offensive line.

In summing up, I would just like to add this. If the 49ers are better than the Rams, why don't the 49ers do better against the teams in their own divisions? For example, against the teams in their own division, the Rams won four, lost one, and tied one, while the 49ers won two and lost four. Also, if the 49ers are better than the Rams, how come the Rams beat them THREE times? And don't tell me they played bad games, because it just doesn't happen three times in one season.

Mr. Editor, I deeply hope you print this article, because I had much to write about after I read those three sickening articles on the 49ers, and it would really relieve my mind to know that they read my article.

Craig Partlo Bay City, Michigan

EDITOR'S NOTE: We just hope your letter doesn't sicken 49er fans in turn. Pro Quarterback does not wish to start an epidemic between Ram and 49er fans.

(Continued on page 14)





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Dear Sir:

For many years now, supposedly educated people have been telling fans across the country how to predict pro football games. They claim to base their choices on a barrel of statistics, past performances, injuries, schedules, etc. Well, I too used a "system" last year, and my percentage for guessing winners, all the winners last season, was close to 75%. However, I really missed the boat on a few playoffs, and I blew the Super Bowl entirely.

My "system" was as simple as anyone could ask for. When two teams were about to square off, I merely picked as the winner the team which I thought had better looking helmets. My motto was simple: "If you look halfway impressive, you'll win."

I have decided to continue this system again this season, and this is how I look at it.

Team strength is determined by two factors—the emblem on the helmet, and the color. Generally, each factor is worth one point. Here is how the teams appear to me now in order of strength.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

- FALCONS— Atlanta gets 1 point for the emblem. The flying falcon symbolizes daring and quickness. They also get a point for the striking black on red color. (2 points).
- GIANTS—The "NY" says, "We're the big New Yorkers coming at you.", which counts one. The dark blue also adds one. (2).
- **DETROIT** The lion's worth a strong point, stressing straightforward ferociousness. Color is mediocre for ½ pt. (1½).
- VIKINGS Dark purple can scare people, so it scores 1. The Viking wing would normally be good for 1, but it could be confused for a Philly eagle. Thus only ½ point. (1½).
- 49ERS— "SF" means another big city to contend with. Color adds ½ pt. (1½).
- **REDSKINS** Color great for 1. Emblem not so hot. If they would've stayed with the arrow, I'd give them $2\frac{1}{2}$, the ultimate. (1½).
- RAMS— The Ramhead could be used to make opponent dizzy, so it's good for ½. Color also rates ½ pt. (1).
- CHICAGO— Good nickname, but not on helmet, so it doesn't count much. Black color good for 1 point. (1).
- SAINTS—The emblem is striking but emphasizes peaceful negotiations, which is the wrong attitude in pro ball. ½ pt. Color so-so for ½. (1).
- DALLAS— This team always gives me trouble. The star really says nothing. The color ain't that hot, but it ain't bad either. (½ pt.).
- PACKERS— The Packer helmet did wonders with the Pack glory years teams, but then, headbands or baseball caps would've also done the job. In these times, the "G" carries no weight, and ditto for the green and gold. (0).
- EAGLES— One lousy wing symbolizes that Philly goes off half-cocked. Zero for color. (0).
- CARDS— Dumb looking birdface adds zero to team with little color. Same helmet can be found in high schools everywhere. (0).

The synopsis is that the Falcons and the Giants will fool a lot of teams. The Lions and Vikings will be heard from all year, with Detroit possibly going to the Bowl on

the strength of their emblem. The Redskins and 49ers will start out flying but play too conservative at the end, which will take a toll.

The Rams and Bears will be solid alsorans, while New Orleans will upset some-body big along the way. Green Bay, Philly, and St. Louis will never reach .500. The big Dallas "star" is missing. Duane Thomas was rustled away, Staubach is injured, and Hill and Alworth will eventually be ailing. To top it off, Neely might be caught for holding a few crucial games.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

- OAKLAND— Their helmets are 2½ points out of this world. The emblem shows a knighthood toughness with class. The blackish-gray on white adds another 1. The helmets perfectly match the dreadful black-white uniforms. These are the perfect helmet- uniform combinations. (The only uniform in sports which could compare were the old Warriors' basketball jerseys, with "THE CITY" on the fronts. (2½).
- PITTSBURGH— The colors are toughening in an offbeat way. The emblem easily rates one. (2).
- KANSAS CITY— "KC" in the arrowhead is perfect for 1. The color is fantastic. The Chiefs rate a 2.
- MIAMI— The dolphin scores one on its own. The greenish color is only so-so. Miami is 1½.
- COLTS— Horseshoe good effort for 1 point. Blue and white color adds ½ at best.
- **HOUSTON** Oil well excellent for 1. Color good for $\frac{1}{2}$. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$).
- NEW ENGLAND— Patriot with ball counts 1. Color gives extra 1/2. (11/2).
- **BILLS** They would get as much as Detroit, although lion is charging and buffalo is grazing. (1).
- BENGALS—Emblem nothing special, but deserves ½ point because they didn't put a common "C" on it. Color good for another ½ pt. (1).
- JETS—"JETS" inside football adequate for ½ pt. Color only ½. (1).
- SAN DIEGO—Lightning bolt good idea for 1. Colors are terrible. (1).
- **DENVER**—Bronco alone is nice, but inside the "D" is distracting for ½. Color is okay only. (½).
- BROWNS—Non-existing emblem shows either total lack of imagination or true greatness. The color also causes one to wonder. Cleveland is either zero or two, depending how you want to look at it.

Synopsis: Oakland should be in the Big Bowl. The Steelers probably won't make it, because the emblem is hard to figure out, although it looks good. They will be trouble for most teams. Kansas City might beat out Oakland, but I doubt it. Miami will be edged in the playoffs.

Baltimore doesn't show enough; Houston, the Patriots, and Buffalo will not be pushovers as before. The Bengals and Jets will definitely surprise people, while the Chargers will score a ton and give up the same.

Denver will break less than even with its foes. Cleveland remains a mystery. They might make the playoffs, but it says here that they will be a big disappointment.

SUPER BOWL? Oakland against Detroit.

Tim Sullivan Stevens Point, Wisc.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Why not? We suspect some predictions are based on tea leaves and Ouija boards. Why not helmets?

Beginning This Issue:

Power Football

By Don Shula

It's first down and ten, second and six, or third and eight-the call by the middle linebacker (Nick Buoniconti) in our defensive huddle is 4-3 zone. Our defensive objective is to prevent the cheap touchdown. We want to take away the Bomb, the long run, the pass. We want to take away what our opponent likes. On the run, we want to contain the end run or attack the inside play. On the pass, we want to force the quarterback to throw to areas where we can react and attack the receiver when the ball is in the air. The zone coverage we use enables us to have an extra man at the point of at- know what their teammate is doing, time, our secondary defenders are defense. moving to areas which protect us from eliminating the Bomb and preventing the cheap touchdown then we feel that we can force the offense into long ing out this assignment as aggressively effective.

Continued on next page yardage situations. By creating more long yardage situations for the offense, we can begin to dictate or narrow their choice of plays, and this will enable us to concentrate more on the pass.

This type of total concentration enables our front four (Jim Riley, Manny Fernandez, Bob Heinz and Bill Stanfill) to explode off the ball with one thought in mind-break the passing pocket, and hurry the quarterback. This is a must in our type of zone coverage. We cannot allow the quarterback to set up and look over the field. Our line's job is to force the quarterback to throw to his primary receiver without time to find a second choice.

Our three linebackers (Doug Swift, Nick Buoniconti and Mike Kolen), on the snap of the ball, must move to their area of responsibility. Each member of our deep secondary (Tim Foley, Dick Anderson, Jake Scott and Curtis Johnson) must move quickly to his area, and get in position to react to the ball. Each member of our secondary, our linebackers and our deep backs must be familiar with each player's responsibility. They must



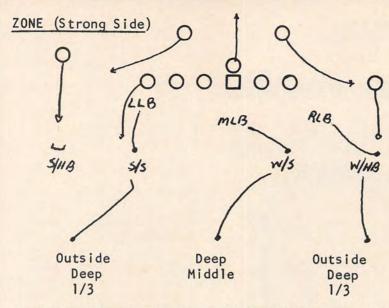
tack on the run, while, at the same and how each fits into our total

Defense is a team objective. To the long gain. If we are successful in achieve success, our defensive unit (11 players) must perform together—each taking his own assignment—and carry-

as possible. As will be shown in the diagram below, each player in our secondary is responsible for a definite area. As we move to these areas, we must jam or re-route the receiver, disrupting the timing between the receiver and quarterback and causing the quarterback to hesitate. This hesitation (forced by good coverage), we hope, will cause the quarterback to look for a second choice.

"Play the Ball" is a must in our zone coverage. We must attack the ball, and we are able to do this if we execute our responsibilities. We must get a jump on the ball-we must read the quarterback. Thank goodness they have never made a quarterback, yet, who could look one way and throw the other. Some have come close and at times you think they might, but as yet-that's why our 4-3 zone call is

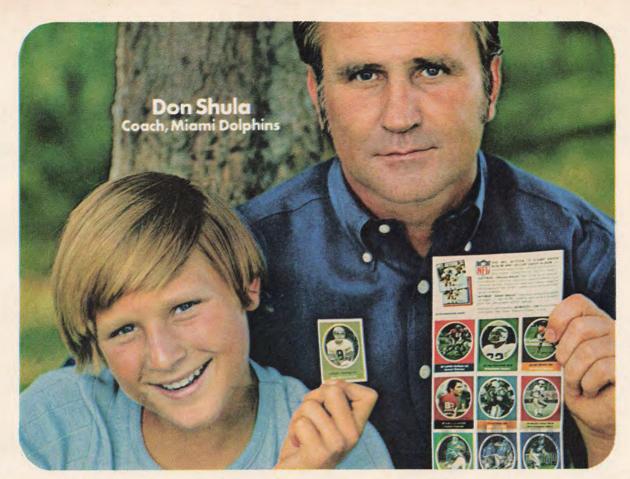
ZONE (Weak Side) *The ZONE (W/S) assignments are the reverse of the ZONE (S/S) assignments as shown below. 3/HB Outside Deep Outside Deep Middle Deep 1/3 1/3



The call 4-3 zone—denotes the alignment of our line and the position of our linebackers and deep backs. The term 4-3 gives our line spacing, and the term zone controls our secondary and denotes the type of coverage.

	Alignment	Кеу	Responsibility
LLB	Head on TE	Be conscious of the formati field position. Build a wall be thru the receiver entering the INSIDE ZONE on the weakside Be conscious of the formati field position. Build a wall be thru the receiver entering the INSIDE ZONE on the weakside	
MBL	Head on Center		
RLB	Giant position		
S/HB	Head on Flank 5-7 yds deep	Flank, TE & Strong Back	Be conscious of the formation and field position. Jam the Flank—reroute the receiver to the SHORT OUTSIDE ZONE on the strong side.
S/S	Head on TE 5-7 yds deep	TE, Flank	Move to the DEEP 1/3 OUTSIDE. Locate QB, see the pattern—play the ball.
W/s	Head on Weak Back 5-7 yds deep	See all receivers— Strong side to weak side	Move to the DEEP MIDDLE—Locate QB, see the pattern—play deep to short—BE AS DEEP AS THE DEEPEST.
W/HB	Head on Split 5-7 yds deep	Split & Weak Back	Move to the DEEP 1/3 OUTSIDE. Locate QB see the pattern—play the ball.

We believe in the 4-3 zone. It has been successful over the years, and has contributed to our success. Our players have worked to execute the necessary demands of this coverage, and we all feel that the call 4-3 zone by our middle linebacker is good in any situation.



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ROUND-UP



ATLANTA FALCONS

No quarterback can say he didn't get a shot in the pre-season. Falcon coach Norm Van Brocklin started four different quarterbacks in four games-all lossesbefore going with regular Bob Berry in the practice finale against Cincinnati...And, at the same time, Van Brocklin solved a "grandstand problem." He started Heisman Trophy winner Pat Sullivan and let him play the whole game against the Jets. By doing this, Van Brocklin quieted some of the "We-Want-Sullivan" cries from the stands. Sullivan, of course, played at nearby Auburn and has legions of followers in the Southeast...

The Dour Dutchman, Van Brocklin, had one of the best oneliners after the 9-3 loss to the Jets. "Shoot, if I hadn't been an 'offensive genius,'"
he said, "we wouldn't have
scored those three
points."...This has been a
different kind of early season for Van Brocklin. Not
once has he lost his famous,
or infamous, Dutch
temper...

Atlantans were sorry to see offensive tackle Mal Snider traded to Green Bay for running back Dave Hampton. It was no disrespect for Hampton, but Snider, a third-round pick from Stanford in '69, was a class guy and a Falcon favorite....It appears that Joe (Who?) Profit, Atlanta's No. 1 draft pick of 1970, is beginning to come as a running back. He is learning his way around the NFL defenses...Van Brocklin on second-year wide receiver Ken Burrow: "We can't allow him to be a sophomore this year.

CHICAGO BEARS

Defensive end Steve DeLong was acquired from San Diego for draft choice almost eight years after Bears had chosen him as one of three first-round



picks for 1965. The other two: Dick Butkus and Gale Sayers. Steve Wright was traded to Cardinals so that No. 1 draft choice Lionel Antoine could move into right tackle job. Two days later, Antoine suffered severe knee sprain and was out three weeks. Bears then picked up tackle Rich Buzin (ex-Giant) from Rams...

Three other trades and two waiver deals were wiped out because players either weren't physically able to play or didn't want to ... And as late as mid-August, nothing had been resolved with free agents George Seals, Dick Gordon and Jack Concannon...Gale Sayers reported to camp a month after it opened. He was trying to work his surgical knee into shape at home...Halfback Roger Lawson, 15th round pick, was surprise rookie in camp. He admittedly had "bad attitude" during senior year at Western Michigan and other clubs lost interest in him...

Abe Gibron's first head coaching victory resulted from his knowledge of rules and his insistence that players know them. Bears beat Oilers 20-17 in exhibition when they tried 60-yard free kick after fair catch and then covered it inches from Houston goal to set up field goal with three seconds left. Irony: Linzy Cole, Houston return man who just stared at ball, unaware it was live on free kick, used to be on Bear special teams under Gibron's direction ...

Joe Moore, trying to improve as receiver, spent all summer catching 100 passes ddy AFTER practice...Butkus may wind up snapping ball on punts because of problems in that department. Dick played center in college ... Gibron's first camp as head coach was best organized and disciplined of any in recent Bear history ... One day when 10 injured players were missing from practice, Gibron made this ominous announcement: "Zorro's got

'em...they had to be shot."
Zorro is what the players call
Dr. Ted Fox, team
physician.



DALLAS COWBOYS

The fact Roger Staubach suffered his shoulder separation running isn't going to change him. "If my career only lasts until I'm 32 (he's 30 now) I'm still going to play the way I play," said Roger. "I'm going to run as long as I think it helps the team."...

The Cowboys feel very fortunate in being able to land Jack Concannon, a free agent who had played out his option with the Bears. After Staubach's injury the price for quarterbacks definitely went up for the Cowboys but Tex Schramm was able to make the deal for backup offensive tackle Bob Asher, a rookie defensive lineman who wasn't going to make the team named Bill Line and a future second round draft choice ...

Cowboy coaches say Craig Morton was showing much more interest in meetings, etc. than ever before even before Roger Staubach was hurt . . . The Cowboys consider flanker Lance Alworth one of if not the finest blocking wide receiver in the league..."Billy Parks," said assistant Sid Gillman (he coached Billy last year at San Diego), "has as good a pair of hands as any receiver I've ever seen in football."

DETROIT LIONS

Oh, how Alex Karras keeps getting back at the Lions. Again this year he has been given a forum to say whatever suits his fancy in semi-weekly columns in the Detroit Free Press. Alex always has been a skillful provocateur. In print, he rags the Lions constantly,

picking at their deficiencies on the field and their conservativism in the front office. Like since the start of camp Karras has been zinging the defensive line. What a target. Karras' attacks implicitly state the Lions' erred grievously last year when they cut a defensive tackle named Alex Karras...

The Lions' hierarchy traditionally has recoiled at all press criticism. But when the critic in print happens to be Alex, GM Russ Thomas and Joe Schmidt steam in a blue funk. Neither has any widely circulated forum to retaliate. What Karras says-and he finds it impossible to bestow any praise-bugs the Lions and may even influence their performance on the field. Schmidt thinks so, anyway. "It certainly does us no good," said Schmidt. "He rabble-rouses the fans and they believe all the garbage he writes." All Schmidt can do is engage in some namecalling. Schmidt is an acute nicknamemaker and his sobriquets for



Karras are the Swine and the Greek Muhammed Ali...

Guard Chuck Walton and Garo Yepremian have been enemies ever since they were teammates in Detroit. Walton just didn't care for little guys butting into the business of football. Before Miami played in Detroit in the preseason, Garo had a message for Walton: "I want to thank everybody for helping me leave Detroit. I like the weather in Miami and the Super Bowl money is pretty good-and they're taking measurements for the AFC championship ring." To which Walton rebutted: "So Garo's got a championship ring ... " Then Walton said something about finding a place where he would shove it ...

The Lions could be the most clean-cut club in football. No long hair, no mustaches, no goatees on the Lions by edict of Schmidt. "When they go on the football field," said the imperious Schmidt, "they partially represent the Detroit Lions and partially my own feelings. I don't think a mustache or a beard has any place in professional sports. My own kids I have to drag to the barber. Then there's the hygiene aspect. Suppose a player gets bruised or cut, the hair can infect the injury." Then Schmidt emphasized the real reason for the hair ban: "Mainly, it's because I don't like it.'



GREEN BAY PACKERS

Bart Starr has retired as a player but his influence on the Packers remains as strong as his presence on the sidelines as a coach. In the team's second exhibition game, at Miami, the Packers found themselves with third down and a foot to go at their own 21. Quarterback Scott Hunter sent John Brockington into the line on a fake and then threw a long pass to flanker Dave Davis, who had slipped behind the secondary. The result was a touchdown on a maneuver Starr had perfected over the years...

Hardest worker in the Packer training camp this year was veteran middle linebacker Ray Nitschke. Beat out of a starting job by Jim Carter in 1971, there was some question whether Nitschke could even make the 1972 squad. But his determination to become a 15-year man was so evident that Coach Dan Devine named him a co-captain...

With reference to rookie quarterback Jerry Tagge's size, the linemen refer to him as "the linebacker who throws passes"... Cornerback Ken Ellis, faulted for lack of aggressive hitting a year ago, is making a strong comeback in that area this

year, having moved from the left to right side...

For the past several years, every kicker in the Packer uniform (and there have been many) has referred to Bart Starr as the best holder in the business. Now that Starr has retired and college phenom Chet Marcol has been signed, the situation is reversed. Devine is having trouble finding a reliable holder.

Reports from San Diego are that the Chargers were stunned to find out they could get Lionel Aldridge from the Pack in exchange for Jim Hill. The story is that San Diego doubted if Hill could make the Charger team this year. Ironically, the same is true about Aldridge. There was some doubt he could make the Pack. But Hill has been impressive...

Devine wants some artificial turf, either in Lambeau Field or on the practice field next door, but is proceeding cautiously because of the conflict with the Players Association... Cal Withrow is only the second string center but Packer offensive line Coach Rollie Dotsch says "If you could put two inches and 20 pounds on him, he would be illegal"...

In the opening exhibition, Fred Carr picked up the loose ball on an errant Bengal extra point snap and ran all the way to the end zone for a would-be "touchdown." He took some razzing for it but in the second exhibition, at Miami, the same situation came up and Carr again set sail ... but caught himself after about 10 yards. "I thought it was a field goal," he said. "One of these days I'm going to get me one..."

As the Packers were about to board their plane for Miami, the anti-hijack metal detecting device began beeping. It had picked up a rosary in Devine's pocket. The Packers won, 14-13.

LOS ANGELES RAMS

One of the most interesting and remarkable figures recorded among the many that comprise the statistical feats of the NFC's leading active passers on the list below is Roman Gabriel's 3.2 per cent of interceptions, the NFL record for passers who have thrown a minimum of 1,500 attempts. The Los Angeles Rams quarterback has been intercepted only 97 times while attempting 2,990 passes, or an average of once every 31 attempts...

Closest to Gabriel among players with 1,500 attempts are Bart Starr of Green Bay and Fran Tarkenton of Minnesota, both with 4.4 per cent, which averages out to one interception every 23 passes... Gabriel has thrown only 29 interceptions in 1,158 attempts over the



last three seasons, cutting 16 from his total of 45 over the previous three-year span, 1966-68...

"I began to concentrate on interceptions, even in practice," Gabe says, recalling some theories he adopted in 1969. "If our defense covers the pattern (in practice), I just trot away with the ball. I don't want to force the pass and get into bad habits. Also, most people think that throwing over the middle is dangerous, and that throwing to the outside is safer. I don't believe it. There are a lot of defenders on the inside, but if you read the defense right you know where they are...

"If you have your receiver hook in or slant in and he is covered, you can throw the ball low and he can dive back toward you and catch it anyway. Watch a receiver like Jack Snow. By now he knows when I will throw low and he starts diving even before I let go of the ball. On the other hand, throwing to the outside is dangerous. Against a good defensive back you have to be 100 per cent accurate. He has the angle. If the throw is even a

little behind, he'll step in there and get it, and there is no one out there to stop him."



MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Joe Robbie, managing general partner of the Miami Dolphins, expects to play the Minnesota Vikings three times this season. That's what he told Viking general manager Jim Finks during a fishing trip and when Finks questioned him on it, Robbie replied: "Preseason, regular season and Super Bowl..."...

When Fran Tarkenton was asked if there's any similarity in styles of him and Miami quarterback Bob Griese, Tarkenton said: "Yes, I think so. Bob uses sprint out and bootleg action and he's a heady quarterback..."Another similarity was discovered. Both have the same birthday-February 3. Tarkenton was born that day in 1940, while Griese made his debut five years later. That makes Tarkenton 32 and Griese 27...

Paul Dickson, the defensive tackle the Vikings fondly referred to as "The Growler," got a new outlook while serving on Bob Hollway's staff at St. Louis. "The Growler is turning into a purr," said Dickson. "Now I like to walk to the practice field and look at the flowers along the way..."...

For a while during preseason, Carl Eller was the only member of the Vikings' Front Four on the practice field. Gary Larsen, Alan Page and Jim Marshall all were shelved with various ailments, prompting this line by Marshall: "We used to meet at the quarterback. Now we meet in the training room ... "Viking kicker Fred Cox, in a suggestion to make field goal kicking more interesting, says: "They could try spotting the ball for field goals where it was downed on the previous play. When the ball goes out of bounds, move it in eight yards and kick from there..."



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Another training camp period has fallen from the calendar and there's no man in professional football happier than Dave Parks. "I dread the thought of training camp all year long," said the former All Pro wide receiver now playing tight end for the New Orleans Saints. "Going to camp would be okay if I could send my body and leave my head at home." Parks missed several weeks of work because of a sore calf muscle but did get in for the second half of what the National Football League likes to call "pre season games." Everyone else calls them exhibitions...

Parks feels exhibitions are useless. "If we're going to play 20 games a year (six exhibitions, 14 regular), why not let them all count," he said without a trace of bitterness. "Do we need six games to warm up? Look, college teams play 10 and 11 games a season and they don't need six games to get ready." Parks believes the veterans find it extremely difficult to get "up" for these exhibitions. He pointed to a game the Saints played against Dallas in mid-August. "There is no team in the NFL I'd rather beat than the Cowboys," he explained. "I tried hard to get up for the game, but I just can't get fired up for exhibitions. It just wasn't like playing a regular season game." Incidentally, his Saints fell to the Cowboys, 30-7...

Parks also doesn't like the length of training the pros must suffer through. He believes there are just so many miles in a man's "wheels"

and the thousands of yards run in July and August will take its toll during the stretch run of the regular campaign. He also resents some minor training camp regulations he believes are childish, and the fines that follow for breaking or bending them. "It's worse than the army," he grinned. "I'm a grown man and will do the right thing. What I'd like to do would be to come in two weeks before the league game and everyone."...

Parks' comments should not be taken as a blast at Saint coaches or the football establishment. He was just speaking as a 30-year-old, nine year veteran of the football wars who knows time is running out on him. "Physically, I feel I can go on for a lot more years, but mentally, well, I just don't know," he admits candidly. And what about the future? "I want to coach; have to coach," he replied. "I'm going to have to coach just to see if I know as much about football as I think I know."

Parks' career at New Orleans has been as volatile as an erupting volcano. He joined the Saints in 1968 after playing out his option with San Francisco's 49ers. The commissioner's office stepped in and ordered the fledgling NFL team to turn over a No. 1 draft pick plus their most recently acquired No. 1, Kevin Hardy. For months Pete Rozelle was as popular in New Orleans as Jane Fonda would be addressing a Republican national convention...

Parks' early years with the Saints were hampered by injuries. Then came a public outburst by Parks when he thought then Saint quarterback Billy Kilmer was not throwing to him enough. To compound the situation for the big fellow out of Texas Tech, former coach Tom Fears moved him from wide receiver to tight end. He accepted the order under protest but was not happy. By 1971 Parks had learned to live as a tight end and admits last season was "fun." "I don't have the speed to burn anybody now, but I can set 'em up," he admits with a soft chuckle. "I'd like to go out (wind up his career) with a contender, a winner," he continued. "Last year, you know we were in the division race until almost the end. We had that mathematical shot. This year, I believe we have an even better opportunity."...

With a much improved Archie Manning and Edd Hargett doing the guarterbacking and a tougher running game, Parks believes this could be a banner year for the six-year-old Saints. "Our passing attack is going to be dangerous," he opinioned. "Danny Abramowicz and I work well together and with Margene Atkins (acquired in an offseason trade with Dallas) on the other side, we'll be tough. If they double Margene, Danny and I will kill em."

While Parks is looking for a championship and an opportunity to coach, he has one more burning desire. He'd like to own a string of thoroughbred racers. "It would be too expensive to go out and buy a bunch of good horses," he admitted. But I dream of picking up a good horse for, say, \$20,000 and turning him into a winner. Then with the winnings I parlay that one horse into a good stable," the softspoken Texan said hopefully. But plans for entering the Sport of Kings must wait. Despite the tough training camp grind, there are still a lot of miles left in his "wheels."



NEW YORK GIANTS

Pity the New York Giants. Ever since they announced the move to an as-yet unbuilt new stadium in New Jersey, they have had nothing but aggravation. First Mayor Lindsay and his Merry Men began to shriek with outraged fury, charging team president Well Mara with being a "defec-

tor" (just a moment, didn't Lindsay switch to another allegiance?). Now there are any number of hang-ups in the Garden State courts, with groups questioning everything from the constitutionality of using state funds to build a racing track (part of the overall sports complex proposed for the Hackensack-East Rutherford meadowlands) to the threat to ecological balance if the swamps are cleared out. The only people who should logically complain are the Friends of the Mosquito...

Should the stadium proposal get tied up in court, the Giants could have a real problem, since current plans call for Yankee Stadium to be "closed for renovation" in 1973 and 1974. Where, then, would the Giants play? Try Princeton... Rutgers... Yale's Bowl or even the new Philadelphia Stadium on a share basis. They're personae non grata at Shea Stadium, don't you know...

Offensive line coach Ray Wietecha has drawn plaudits from the guys who should know-the offensive line...The linemen are very pleased with his teaching methods and feel he will make them better athletes...Ray, former Giant All-Pro center, worked under the late Vince Lombardi for five years and has picked up not only his penchant for teaching but several personal mannerisms as well ... He'll be a fine head coach one day...

Players and those writers attending the team daily have not failed to see a "new" Alex Webster this year...The head coach is not only tougher but smarter...He has blossomed into a quality leader...Giants had a three-cornered deal with Houston and Cincinnati but it fell through...

Tim Mara, nephew of Well and acting vice-president-treasurer of the team, had a busy summer... He celebrated his 38th birthday Aug. 6, just weeks after a second marriage... Tim seems to be taking more responsibility in the team's front office, which must be a welcome

experience for the hardworking Well, some 20 years his senior... Tim was instrumental in replacing publicist Don Smith, one of the best, with Tom Power, and the promotion of Smitty's one-time assistant, Ed Croke, to the top job in the p.r. department...

Quarterback Randy Johnson says the only way he was able to force a trade from Atlanta coach Norm Van Brocklin in the summer of '71 was to report to camp..."He would have let me sit home all year," says the affable Texan, "and I just had to get away from there." Johnson says he was disappointed when he was traded to the Giants-"because I wanted to play and they had Fran Tarkenton." But at the end of the season, Randy's luck turned...Tark was traded and the No. 1 job was handed to him ...

Running back Ron Johnson and tight end Bob Tucker are in the third year of their chess game... They have played two full games...each one paced to last a season. Who's ahead? "I am," they both say simultaneously.



PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Number one quarterback Pete Liske proved that he was the right choice in the Eagles' pre-season game against the experienced Washington Redskins. Liske completed 7 of 12 passes for 60 yards and a 15-yard touchdown pass to tight end Gary Ballman. Liske sat out the second half when Coach Eddie Khayat split up the playing time of John Reaves and Rick Arrington. At the end, though, Khayat reiterated what he said all summer. "Pete's No. 1," Khayat said,
"He'll be No. 1 until somebody else proves they're No.

The Washington/Philadelphia pre-season game was marred by 22 penalties, 9 for 75 yards against the Eagles and 13 for 95 against the Redskins. "Every time we play the Eagles we seem to have a lot of turnovers," mused Washington Coach George Allen, mindful of two regular season battles between the NFL Eastern Conference rivals. "They're hard hitters," Allen continued, "You make two or three yards and there's always somebody on your back."... Washington linebacker Jack Pardee said after the 34-10 pre-season game: "I don't think the score reflects the kind of game it was." The Eagles' first touchdown period was the only one registered against the Redskins in their first three pre-season games ..

Fred Hill, Joe Scarpati and Jim Whalen, all recent Eagle retirees, have entered the business world while Fred Whittingham, a fourth former Eagle who has left the game this year, has become a high school athletic director in California. Whittingham holds a Master's degree in education from Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo.



SAN FRANCISCO 49ers

In the past, the NFL has talked about the Year of the Quarterback and the Year of the Runner. But 1972, early on, seems the like the Year of the Injury... There were numerous players lost during the exhibition season and training camp, Tim Rossevich, Clarence Davis, Gail Sayers for example. And the 49ers were not to be an exception...

First draft choice Terry Beasley of Auburn, the prime receiver for Heisman Trophy winner Pat Sullivan, broke his toe in the opening days of camp. He sat—literally—on the sidelines during the opening month of exhibition season while the coaching staff and Beasley wondered exactly what could he do? "It's really frustrating to watch somebody else play," said Beasley. The 49er quarterbacks, who figured that the acquisition of Beasley would give them another target, were thinking the same thing...

Jim Johnson, the all-pro cornerback and Mike Simpson, both received serious shoulder injuries in the exhibition against San Diego. And even Ken Willard incurred a wrenched knee. "Somebody asked me if I thought it was sprained," said the redoubtable Willard, "and I told them I didn't know. I'd never had a sprain before."...

Willard and other 49er players were irate about the playing field at San Diego Stadium, which because of the configuration, seemed to be laid out entirely on the dirt baseball infield. "I don't think this would have happened on AstroTurf," said Willard. "There aren't many good things you can say about AstroTurf, but that's one of them." One 49er claimed the infield had been rolled, "and was like con-crete." Why do the owners take such ridiculous chances with their valuable chattels in the exhibitions?...

The trip to San Diego was bad news. The injuries to three players, a last-minute defeat and the loss of \$550. Thieves broke into the rooms of Randy Beisler, Preston Riley and Ted Kwalick while the players were out and stole the money. When you're hot, you're hot. Under the collar.



ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

The names most discussed around the Cardinal camp as summer turned to autumn in 1972 were Gary Cuozzo...Jim Hart...Joe O'Donnell ... Tim Van

Galder . . . Donny Anderson...Leon Burns...Bobby Moore...and a rookie crop which looked like, with time, could mature into the nucleus of a solid club. In Cuozzo, acquired from Minnesota during the off-season to provide improved quarterbacking, the Cards seemed to have a heady leader, a player of confidence and poise. But he threw five interceptions in his first two exhibition appearances and the suspicious were wondering just how much he would contribute to an organization that has had quarterback problems since Charley Johnson was first injured in the mid-60s...

Cuozzo, who has been a second-stringer through much of his nine-season pro career, actually has the winning background that Bob Hollway covets . . . He has played on only one losing team, the 1967 expansion New Orleans Saints, and in eight years at Baltimore and Minnesota, his teams were 82-29-1...In those seasons, the Colts and Vikings three times won 12 games and captured division crowns five times...

Still, there are those who believe that with fleet receivers like Mel Gray and rookie Moore, the Cardinals would be more lethal with the strong-armed Hart at the trigger... The 1971 incumbant, Hart's challenge of Cuozzo for the No. 1 job was set back by a slight non-throwing shoulder separation that sidelined him for more than half of the exhibition schedule...

In Hart's absence and with Cuozzo unable to convincingly seize the assignment, 28-year-old rookie Tim Van Galder became an unexpected factor...At this writing, the Cards also had a fourth QB on the roster in Pete Beathard, but it looked like he would be traded...Van Galder, however, was impressive in camp, completing seven in a row against the Bears in a scrimmage, and his status developed into a matter of fascinating speculation ...

Drafted in 1966, Van Galder was taxied most of his first two years before spending two years in service...Last fall, he was active for three games and, somewhat incredibly, if he should be activated for three games in 1972, he would qualify for an NFL fiveseason pension, without ever having stepped onto a regular-season playing field...He was active three games in 1966, making his two Army years credits ... Then he added another "year" in '71...So, having never played, he is within sight of that pension...But the way he looked in '72, it was probable that he would play somewhere, if not with the Cardinals, then with some team that needed an effervescent, unproven-butpotentially first-rate QB...

O'Donnell, obtained in the trade for Irv Goode, walked out of camp after one practice in July, saying that he had decided to retire...But four weeks later, Hollway talked him into returning and the St. Louis offensive line was upgraded considerably...Anderson and Burns, both also acquired in winter trades, looked like they would form the Cardinals' tandem at running back, and that they would provide both power and versatility, although neither looks like a game-breaker...

Hollway emphasizes, however, that Anderson is a "big play player," and his professional approach to all phases of the game fits perfectly the philosophy the St. Louis coach is trying to instill in a team that has been noted for its inconsistency and, at times, lack of professionalism...Burns, who was apparently in the San Diego scrap heap, early looked like a steal in exchange for plodding Cid Edwards...

Finally, Moore was a problem when he was late signing a contract and didn't show at camp until almost a week after the College All-Star game... The team's No. 1 draft pick quickly showed that he could fit in either at running back or wide receiver and with O'Donnell's return, all the links seemed present for a much-improved attack over the one which fetched just 231 points in 1971.



WASHINGTON REDSKINS

The Redskins delighted their fans with their fast start, winning their first three exhibition games behind Bill Kilmer and Sonny Jurgensen and a stout defense...Larry Brown, who had had knee problems, was being kept out of the early pre-season tests because coach George Allen felt no need to risk injury to Brown. "He runs with the first team during practice," Allen said. "We know what he can do in a game."...

A Washington newspaper is running a contest to pick a name for the Redskins' defense. Complained offensive tackle Walter Rock: "I guess they'll give the runnerup name to the offensive line."... Spurred by the interest in the Bobby Fischer-Boris Spassky world championship chess match, the Redskins held their own chess tournament this summer under the direction of running back Mike Hull....

Defensive end Verlon Biggs, in his second year with the Redskins after leaving the New York Jets, has been much quicker this season. "I was too heavy (280) when I reported last year," Biggs said. "Then I tried to diet, and that sapped a lot of my strength. I was beaten before I started."...

Allen has three former lets on his squad-Biggs, defensive end Jimmie Jones and running back George Nock. Jones, coming off a knee operation, is a star of the future, according to Allen. Nock, meanwhile, had a 5.7 rushing average in his first two exhibitions and scored on a 37 yard run and 46 yard pass from Kilmer...Fourth year man Harold McLinton making a run at wresting the starting middle linebacker's spot from veteran Myron Pottios. Allen predicts McLinton will be an "All-Pro" some day. Noted Pottios: "Harold has good range, and I'm not getting any younger."

QUARTERBACK / PLAYBACK

CRAIG MORTON



Perhaps the two most significant breaks in the checkered pro football career of Craig Morton have been the retirement of Don Meredith in 1969 and the separated shoulder suffered by Roger Staubach last August. Each of these developments made Morton the No. 1 quarterback of the Dallas Cowboys.

Yet, Morton experienced mixed emotions both times. He was pleased to gain the starting job, but he was sorry to see Meredith retire and he regretted seeing Staubach injured.

In this exclusive Pro Quarterback interview, Morton discusses these ironic feelings as well as a number of other interesting topics.

For example, he talks about the responsibility he faces in leading the Cowboys back to the Super Bowl for the defense of their NFL championship and he talks about the frustration he has experienced in profootball as he marches toward his quest of being the best quarterback in the game.

He discusses Staubach, Dallas Coach Tom Landry and a former teammate, Duane Thomas. Most interesting of all, though, he discusses Craig Morton. **Pro Quarterback:** What was your reaction when Roger got hurt?

Morton: I was a little disappointed when he got hurt because I had more or less geared myself to compete with him the whole pre-season to try to beat him out. When I made my decision to stay with the Cowboys, I knew I'd get my job back. I hate to see anybody get injured, especially like Roger did. I've been through a shoulder separation and had an operation and it's really not any fun type of thing so I was really saddened by his getting hurt. I didn't enjoy it at all.

Pro Quarterback: When did you realize that you would be the quarterback who would have the responsibility of leading the Cowboys back to the Super Bowl?

Morton: Right when he got hurt, I knew it was on me. I knew when he was holding his shoulder out there that he had really hurt it. I didn't know how bad it was, but when he came out with his hand tucked in his pants it looked exactly like a re-enactment of when I did that against Atlanta.

Pro Quarterback: What kind of pressure do you feel being in that role? How did you react to it?

Morton: I don't know if I really feel pressure or not. I kind of feel the pressure playing again. I haven't felt it for a long time but I don't really feel any added pressure or anything. I was really prepared this year to be the No. 1 quarterback so that it was kind of falling into what I expected—only it was a little sooner.

Pro Quarterback: You say you expected it. Did you think you could win the job back?

Morton: I really thought I could win the job back. I was having a real good pre-season. I felt that I had competed with Roger and if I wasn't going to get the job through pre-season that eventually I would get it during the year. I always say that it takes two quarterbacks-it may take three now, you never know-but it's going to take two quarterbacks to go back to the Super Bowl because there are just too many games. When you're playing 14 games plus 7 exhibition games and play-off games and everything else, that's a lot of games. If a guy can withstand the pressure and the pounding for that many games, it's very exceptional.

Pro Quarterback: What does it feel like now that you have the job back?



"My one main goal is to take the team to the Super Bowl and win it."

Morton: It feels great. I enjoy playing football. It's a great way to relieve a lot of anxieties and it's tremendously fulfilling mentally and physically and I think that's what you have to ask of your job. So I really enjoy it.

Pro Quarterback: How does a quarterback gain the confidence of the rest of the team after another quarterback has led them to the championship and also has been named the league's most valuable player?

Morton: It was more or less forced on them at the start. They never had a chance to adjust. They really didn't have much of a choice, but my teammates and I get along really well. They perform really well for me. I never had that problem. I think they have great confidence in me. They know I can lead them to the Super Bowl. I led the team to our first Super Bowl so they know I can lead them back there. I think the team has adjusted well to it. There are a certain amount of things that I don't do that Roger does. He scrambles a lot and he makes the big plays at unbelievable times. I have to rely more on my knowledge of the game and throwing the football.

Pro Quarterback: What was it like in the first half of last year when Tom Landry alternated you and Roger at quarterback?

Morton: Neither one of us stood out in pre-season. It's sort of a time for adjustment and retraining your eyes and looking at different types of defenses. I didn't know what was going to happen. I had a couple of good games but then I played pretty badly against New Orleans and against Chicago I had a

fair game. Landry felt the team needed a change because we were just kind of hobbling along and we weren't really making any distinct advances toward our goal. He made the change, and I know it was a hard one for him. It wasn't really enjoyable for me, but it was one I had to accept and fight back from.

Pro Quarterback: How did you feel when Landry finally named Staubach the No. 1 quarterback in the middle of the season?

Morton: That's probably a moment I'll never forget. He called me into his office and I thought he was going to go with me because he had gone with me in crucial situations up to that point. But then he said he was going with Roger. I respect Coach Landry. He's a fantastic person—both as a coach and a man. He has taught me a lot and advanced me as a person tremendously in the eight years I've been with the Cowboys. When he made the decision, I knew it was a hard one for him and one that took a lot of thought on his part. He did it for one reason and that's for the best of the team because that was the combination he felt was going to take us to the Super Bowl. Of course, he turned out right and Roger had a great year. The responsibility that I felt was that I shouldn't complain or disrupt the team in any way.

Pro Quarterback: How did you spend the rest of the season? What was it like sitting on the bench?

Morton: The only thing I could really do during the season was to prepare myself mentally to keep going, to keep fighting back because I never knew if I would be called upon, so I really prepared myself mentally. I adjusted my thinking a little bit. Instead of the gung-ho type of person, I really had to just be more or less a guy in the background who was there and ready to take over when something happened. It wasn't really enjoyable, but I think it taught me a lot in many ways. Part of the reason I stayed with Dallas is that I learned I was very close to my team. I had a lot of tremendous friends in Dallas, and I really loved the area. It was a good adjustment period for me. I think I learned a lot through it.

Pro Quarterback: You talk about deciding to stay in Dallas. How close did you come to wanting to go elsewhere?

Morton: I had mixed emotions on that. When I was benched, my first thought was not to leave but to compete and get back the job and I thought it over and I really was never that serious about leaving. I always felt that if you're going to be the best—which I'm going to be—that you've got to compete and be with the best and the best was here. I was going to compete with Roger and the team had just won the Super Bowl, so there were two qualities that I couldn't leave. That's why I decided to stay.

Pro Quarterback: How did you feel about not getting to play in the Super Bowl last season?

Morton: I don't know if I had any real thoughts. I had played in one Super Bowl and I thought I was going to get to play last season. I thought I was going to get to play because Roger was hurt. I remember warming up there because I really did feel that I was going to play. But it was no different than anything else. I was extremely pleased. I was pleased with myself that we had won the Super Bowl because I felt that I was a vital part of the team and that I had contributed just as much as anybody else in getting there. So I wasn't any more disappointed than I had been in previous games.

Pro Quarterback: How did you feel about the team winning the Super Bowl with Staubach at quarterback after having lost it when you were the quarterback?

Morton: I felt great about it. That was our whole team's goal—to go back to the Super Bowl and win it. The game we played with Baltimore was just one of those things. It was kind of a weird game with the fumbles and tipped passes—something I'll never forget. But I couldn't have been happier that we beat Miami and won the Super Bowl. It was just a great thing to be world champions.

Pro Quarterback: How did the loss in the first Super Bowl affect you?

Morton: I don't know that it really affected me. Under the circumstances—I played the whole year with a bad shoulder and then I had a bad elbow the same year—to get as far as I did I thought it was a good plus win on my side. It's something I'll never forget. I was criticized greatly for the game that I played, but still there are very few quarterbacks that have ever been there and I take pride in having been there.

Pro Quarterback: Did it take you long to get over the loss?

Morton: I don't think I'll ever get over that loss, but it's something that I put out of my mind. I think about it every once in a while. We've progressed so



"When I was benched, my first thought was not to leave but to compete and get back the job, and I thought it over and I really was never that serious about leaving."

greatly now that the past really has no bearing on how I perform or anything. It had its effects at the time but now they have passed, whatever they were.

Pro Quarterback: Do you look at Staubach's injury as an opportunity to redeem yourself?

Morton: Under the situation I guess it is that opportunity. As I said, I'm really sorry that he got hurt because I would like to have competed with him to see if I could beat him out. But I am in this situation where I am the quarterback now and of course whatever good things happen will give me a chance to take us back to the Super Bowl and win the Super Bowl, which I want to accomplish before I leave football.

Pro Quarterback: Are you confident you can hold on to the No. 1 job even after Roger is healthy?

Morton: I think so. I think when he comes back if I'm not performing well they'll probably stick him back in there to see what he can do. But I anticipate that I'll be performing well and I'll be winning with the Cowboys.

Pro Quarterback: How would you feel and what might you do if next year you once again were placed behind Roger?

Morton: You never know what's going to happen in the future, but it could happen. He's going to be coming back and competing against me, but whatever the situation, it still takes two quarterbacks. It just seems like whoever is there at the end is the one who reaps the benefits. You've got to place your football performance in perspective to what you accomplish each year and not what's written about you or what laurels you receive. I think you have to place everything you do in the win column, the real positive things, and things you don't do so well you try to improve upon. I think it's a definite challenge each year and if he comes back I'll just have to keep fighting to stay there. I don't plan to leave the Cowboys. There are too many great opportunities around here and this is where I want to live so I'll be competing against him probably until I leave football.

Pro Quarterback: What kind of relationship have you had with Roger?

Morton: We've had a very good relationship. It's one of great competition. I've a great amount of respect and I've admired Roger greatly. He's a fantastic person. We've got a good relationship, I think it's as good as any two people competing against each other can have.

Pro Quarterback: In the past couple of years a number of young quarterbacks, such as Jim Plunkett and Terry Bradshaw have become instant starting quarterbacks. You, on the other hand, played behind Don Meredith for four years. How did you feel during that time?

Morton: When I came here it was going to take me five years to play for the Cowboys because of the complicated and intricate system they have with keying defenses and reading them and knowing where to throw the ball. Nobody likes to sit on the bench, but I knew I had a lot to learn. I think our system has become a lot easier and simpler since I came in the league. But looking back I've learned a lot. I learned a tremendous amount from Don. I couldn't even explain how much I learned from him. He was a tremendous asset to me so I think the four years on the bench were probably pretty well spent.

Pro Quarterback: Was there a frustration, though, sitting on the bench and not getting to play too much?

Morton: Yes, I think there's a great frustration. Jerry Rhome and I were kind of No. 2 on and off. We'd alternate when they benched Don, then I'd start a few games, then he sat me back on the bench for the next couple of years. It was a period of ups and downs. But it's something that I was told had to happen, that was the process of professional football, so I just adjusted accordingly.

Pro Quarterback: Can you compare the frustration you experienced playing behind Meredith and Staubach?

Morton: I don't think there is a comparison. I was No. 1 when I was beaten out by Roger and the frustration was great. Again I can only think of positive things when I was benched because of Roger beating me out. I had a good time to heal. I hadn't had any rest and I had been beaten on for a few years with an operation on the shoulder and an operation on the elbow and every time I seemed to get well I'd injure something. The frustration was great but I turned the frustration to the positive side and I thought,



"There are a certain amount of things that I don't do that Roger does. He scrambles a lot and he makes the big plays at unbelievable times. I have to rely on my knowledge of the game and throwing the football."

well, I had a chance to spend about six or seven months healing and I'm thankful for it now because I really feel great physically.

Pro Quarterback: How did you feel when Meredith retired and you finally got the No. 1 job?

Morton: I was unbelievably surprised. I was coming back from a camping trip in California and I heard it on the radio with some friends—there were about six or seven of us coming back from northern California. I just couldn't believe it. I had no idea Don was going to retire. He talked about possibly retiring, but I didn't expect it at all. Right away I was kind of thrust onto the spot. I really was very excited on one hand and kind of disappointed on the other because Don had been a great friend and really the catalyst of the Cowboy spirit.

Pro Quarterback: How would you appraise your play in those two years as the No. 1 quarterback?

Morton: The first year I played pretty well the first four games. I was throwing the ball better than I ever had. Then I suffered that shoulder separation and played the whole year with a bad shoulder, which took its toll. We had some good seasons. We won 11 the first year and 10 the second year. After a winning season I wasn't anywhere near where I wanted to be because I had played with injuries, but I was happy I could lead the team to its first championship. It was a great excitement for me.

Pro Quarterback: Some fans reacted negatively to your play. How did the booing affect you?

Morton: I don't think anybody enjoys being booed. I think I was kind of given an advantage because I had seen Don booed tremendously. He taught me a lot through that booing, how he reacted to it. It was kind of hard the first time I faced it. But it doesn't bother me now. I think you hear it a little bit. I heard it a lot before but I don't hear it too much now. It kind of picks everybody up. They say, 'well, let's get more things together.' I can't pay attention to what the fans are saying. They have a right to do what they want to do. They're out for some entertainment and they're not being pleased and they can react accordingly. It has no effect on my performance. I won't let it anymore. It's something you just have to face as a quarterback because every quarterback's going to be booed in his career.

Pro Quarterback: During the 1970 season you worked with a hypnotist. Why did you decide to do that?

Morton: I consider myself fairly intellectual and I was interested in what was going on in that line. I had always been interested in hypnosis. I had a friend who had a clinic here in Dallas and I had really been hurt at the time, so I thought I would just go and listen to some of his tapes and see what people had gotten out of it. I became very interested in it. I thought it was a great

way of positive thinking. It's like psycho-cybernetics. It wasn't that I was under a trance or anything because I wasn't. When I was being hit or something, I'd kind of try talking myself into completely relaxing instead of being so rigid. I don't know if it worked or not; I have no idea. I wasn't in it that long. But it came out that I was talking to my hypnotist before a game, he was giving me instructions on how to play the game and all this stuff that was so completely out of reality it was just a complete farce. Of course, nobody knows that side of it. The writers just wrote what they wanted to write on it and I had no chance of explaining it and as it turned out I just said the heck with it.

Pro Quarterback: When you were the starting quarterback in '69 and '70, who called the plays?

Morton: I called them the first year but midway through the second year we were beaten by St. Louis, 38-0, and it was kind of the low point in the Cowboys' whole organization. Everybody started writing us off, saying it was just another one of our fancy starts that was folding at the end. Coach Landry felt that with all the booing and the pressure that seemed to be put on me, he would start calling the plays to take some of that pressure off. So he started calling the plays against Washington and then we didn't lose again until the Super Bowl. So he's been successful with it. He was really successful with it with Roger so he feels if you're successful with something you have to keep going with it and that's what he feels he's going to do now.

Pro Quarterback: How do you feel about not being able to call your own plays? Does it make you feel like something less than a complete quarterback?

Morton: I don't think so. We study so much together during the week that most of our calls would be the same. I think a lot of times that we may do something different, but he's going to do it no matter what so there's no reason for me to think badly about it. I mean that's something that's just part of the Cowboy organization now with Coach Landry calling the plays so I don't have any negative thoughts about it.

Pro Quarterback: Duane Thomas called Landry a plastic man. What kind of a person and coach is Tom?

Morton: I'd say he's more an introverted type of person than he is extroverted. He's a man of tremendous emotion. He's got great compassion

for people that you really get to know about only when you become close to him. He's a very warm person and he's very giving and he sacrifices greatly for the team, more than probably anybody. He works harder than anybody I've ever known in my life. I think you really have to admire a man like that. He sets a great example for the youth and all types of people throughout the country, and he does a tremendous amount of work that he just volunteers and donates his time for something he believes in. I really respect and admire him both as a person and as a coach.

Pro Quarterback: What type of person is Duane Thomas?

Morton: Duane and I started to get pretty close the first time we were in the Super Bowl. I think Duane just had a lot of his own beliefs that maybe a lot of people didn't believe in. I think anybody is entitled to his beliefs and whether he chooses to talk to anybody or not is his prerogative. When he was called upon to do his job on the football field he always did it. Not understanding a lot of his personal problems and the type of background he's from, I can't criticize him. I think he did some things that he didn't quite understand were hurting some people, but that's just part of life and you have to accept people. I accepted Duane. I think he's going to make a lot of great advances and I wish him all the luck in the world.

Pro Quarterback: How did his behavior affect the Cowboys?

Morton: There was a lot written about how Duane's behavior was disrupting the team, but we're a very mature team and we felt that Duane had his own reasons for doing what he did, his own personal beliefs. When he was on the football field he performed 100 percent and that's all anybody ever asked of him, just like he'd ask of his teammates. We treated him just like he treated us. He'd let us alone and we'd let him alone and he performed well and that was all there was to it.

Pro Quarterback: How would you assess your pro football career so far? Morton: Well, it's been varied. There have been a lot of things that have happened. But I think it's all ahead of me. A lot of things that have happened in the past are forgotten. It's what I'm doing this year that counts. I feel that I'm playing well now and I want to continue playing just the same

Pro Quarterback: When you were in

college at California, you had an opportunity to become a baseball player. Do you regret your decision?

Morton: No, I gave baseball a great chance in my life. I always wanted to become a professional baseball player. I went to college to get an education and I wanted to play college football because I was always a great football fan, but I thought baseball was my better sport. When I was going to Cal I played in a couple of summer leagues in Colorado, but it all came down to one game after which I was going to make my decision to play football or baseball. We had a new football coach and he said you have to come out for spring ball and I said okay but let me see whether I want to pursue baseball or not. I wasn't playing particularly well but I was going to really do well in this series at UCLA. Late in the game I was up with bases loaded, two outs, and a 3-2 count on me and I hit one to the left fielder. He jumped the fence and snagged it as it was going over and I said that's it, I can't take this kind of life. I can't rely on something like this. I'd rather do something I can control more than I can baseball. So I guess that was the last time I played baseball. I just left after that series and went out for spring football and I've really never looked back or regretted it at all.

Pro Quarterback: Do you feel you can control football better than baseball?

Morton: Definitely. In baseball, you get yourself involved with so many things when you're having trouble, like changing your stance. I remember going through all that stuff. There's just a tremendous mental pressure that you're constantly faced with.



"I am in this situation where I am the quarterback now and of course whatever good things happen will give me a chance to take us back to the Super Bowl and win the Super Bowl which I want to accomplish before I leave football."

When you're 0 for 22, you think there's no tomorrow. In football, if you're in a bad rut you have other players who can help you get out of it. In baseball you're pretty much on your own. I think it's a pretty tough game. I think it's the most demanding game of all sports.

Pro Quarterback: A lot of people say that hitting a baseball is the toughest thing to do in any sport.

Morton: I'd have to agree. At least it was for me. I think it was the hardest thing I've tried to do.

Pro Quarterback: Is there anything in football that can compare to it?

Morton: I'd say third and six and having to put the ball right there. Or any third down situation where you get an all out blitz and you have to hit some receiver and you have to think fast. It's like looking at a curve ball. You have to say curve and adjust accordingly. In football when you're fading back and you see a blitz, you've got to know exactly what to do with the ball.

Pro Quarterback: You're something of an independent person. How much latitude should a pro player have in his off-field behavior?

Morton: I try to keep my off-field activities private but it never seems to work out too well. Being single and around a lot of young people, I think people naturally look at you a lot and see what you're doing. I don't think I've ever intentionally hurt anybody or done anything that would discredit me. I know a lot of things that may have been written that I have done but there are very few things in my life that I am ashamed of. I think as long as you keep your personal life where you're not ashamed of yourself or you know that you're not doing anything wrong, I think that's all right. I'm happy with my personal self right now. There are a lot of improvements I'd like to make. Eventually I'd like to have a family but the time's not ripe right now. You've got to live your life the way you want to live it. People keep trying to change it, especially when you're in public life. They say you have to do this, you have to do that. Well, you don't necessarily have to do it. I try to set an example for young people because I have a great compassion for them. I love working with them and I love being around them. As long as I don't hurt the little people, the guys growing up who are looking to me as an example.

Pro Quarterback: Where does the public life of a football player end and his private life begin?

Morton: Of course, people are very excited about the Cowboys as people are excited about any team and its players in different cities. I don't think you can neglect anybody. You've got to be personable. It's not very hard for me to be personable. It's important that you take time with people. On the other side, they should appreciate your privacy at times when you prefer to be left alone. But I think it's a combination of one side working with the other. If they treat you fairly, you should treat them fairly and vice versa. I never have had any trouble with people. They have always been very fair to me in Dallas considering everything, and they have been very nice to me off the field. I think your personal life begins when you leave the football field and a person ought to have a private life that he can enjoy and not have the pressures that he faces every day in the professional world.

Pro Quarterback: Tell us about your off-field interests, things you like to do away from football.

Morton: I love the snow. I like to snow ski and I like to water ski. I work with young people in Dallas on varied programs through the church groups. Most of all I have three or four very close friends whom I enjoy being with and doing things with. I enjoy traveling. I just like having a really good time and I like to see people have a good time with me.

Pro Quarterback: You have had some misfortunes in business enterprises. What were you involved in and what happened?

Morton: It's the old story that you rely on people whom you probably shouldn't rely on and you trust their judgment when you know yours is better. I just put a lot of money into a bookstore chain and some sporting goods stores that had incompetent people running them. They were taking a little bit through the back door when they should have been sharing it with me. I hate being cheated and that's what I felt was happening. So I just said I'd abandon everything and start all over on my own and be very careful with whom I associate businesswise.

Pro Quarterback: Are you involved in any businesses now?

Morton: I have a club going up here, sort of a restaurant and dancing type place. It's called Wellington's, and there are three of us involved in it. I've got a shopping center in California that I own part of. It's doing well. And I've got a lot of land in northern

California that I'm sitting on for a while. So my investments are going pretty well now.

Pro Quarterback: How long do you want to play pro football?

Morton: I think I'd like to play football until the mental and physical challenge is gone. When it leaves me and when I can no longer fill my needs through that, I'll know it is time to leave.

Pro Quarterback: Do you have any particular goals in the game?

Morton: My one main goal is to take the team to the Super Bowl and win it. Personal goals just come with being with a good team. I don't really have that many personal goals except to be more of a consistent quarterback. In the past I'd have a couple of good games and then I'd have not a very good game and I'd like to stay more on an even consistent routine instead of ups and downs.

Pro Quarterback: You talked before about wanting to be the best quarterback. What do you mean by that?

Morton: I think you're the best when you can have a good game in the Super Bowl. Very few quarterbacks get there and when you do, you're the best for that year. That's all you're ever going to be—the best for one year—because you've got to reprove yourself every year and there are very few who have ever done it for a long period of time. With football as unpredictable as it is, I think if you can be the best for one year in your professional career that's a great accomplishment for anybody.

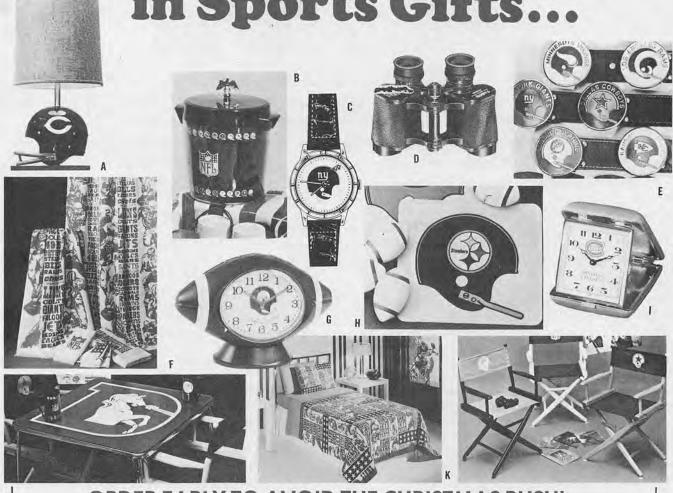
Pro Quarterback: Are there any quarterbacks whom you have idolized or patterned yourself after?

Morton: I've greatly admired Johnny Unitas and Bart Starr and Sonny Jurgensen. I always admired the way that Sonny throws the ball. It always seems he has the greatest arm I've ever seen. I don't think I've patterned myself after anybody. I don't think you can do that. But as far as looking at somebody I've admired as quarterbacks, they would probably be the three.

Pro Quarterback: What do you want to do after pro football?

Morton: I really have no idea yet. I think my goal right now would be working with people, maybe coaching in high school. If I could have enough money to live the way I would like to live, I'd probably like to work with kids in high school, teach them some things not only about football but about life. I think this would be a great goal for me.

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Ben Davidson is 6 feet, 8 inches tall and weighs 280 pounds. He plays defensive end for the Oakland Raiders. Jim Tyrer is 6 feet, 6 inches tall and weighs 280 pounds. He plays offensive tackle for the Kansas City Chiefs. The Raiders-Chiefs rivalry has been one of the fiercest in pro football history, and they'll go at each other again twice in November.

BEN DAVIDSON

Defensive end, Oakland Raiders

■ In my opinion and in a lot of peoples' opinion, Jim Tyrer is one of the best offensive tackles in the league. He's a big, strong guy who's especially good on the run block. He's got one of the biggest heads in the league, and when he gets down in his stance and fires out at you in that big red Chiefs' helmet, it looks like someone's throwing a big red garbage can out at you.

He's very strong in the arms and shoulders, and one of my best moves is to grab a man by the shoulders. I'm one of the bigger defensive ends so I try to use strength. I grab the offensive blocker by the shoulders and jerk myself by one way or another. But he's especially good at flailing his hands and keeping your hands off his jersey. He's strong enough to knock your hands away very easily when you try and put them on his shoulders to grab his jersey.

The way it comes out usually is I get my wrists and forearms all beat up when I play against him. I'm not sure how he comes out of it, but four or five years ago he left the game for a couple of plays and when he came back in, I asked him what happened. He said, 'You kicked me in the head. You know what happened.' I don't know how or if it happened, but that's about the only time I've ever done anything to him that I know of.

We don't really talk on the field. I just usually say hello and go on and do the thing from there. Off the field, I've run into him a few times. But our paths don't cross too much.

If there's any one game that stands out, it was one a few years ago when the Chiefs threw only three passes in the whole game. They came out and ran at us with the old straight T where they had three tight backs and two tight ends. They just ran the ball down our throats and battered us play after play after play. It made for a hard afternoon.

Despite something like that, they're my favorite team to play. They're our perennial rival for the Western Division championship. Maybe you get a little jaded playing a long time, but it's always fun to play a contender and play an important game. The old saying is they're all important, but when you can play the team that's either just ahead of you or just behind you and they're trying to take your place for the championship, it makes a more interesting game out of it.

The fact that they were in the playoffs last year and we weren't will give us more incentive when we play them this year. I like the idea of playing them twice in four weeks because with them coming out of the I formation and shifting out of it and all the things they do on offense, it'll probably be to our advantage to play them that close together so we can see them the first time and come back the second time and remember what they do.

JIM TYRER Offensive tackle, Kansas City Chiefs

■ I always seem to bring out the best in Ben Davidson. His assets are his extremely long arms and his height and size. He just gives you that big, strong outside pass rush.

What's tough about Oakland is they give you a strong rush from the other side, too. So what happens is the quarterback is forced from one side of the pocket to the other, and then they give you a strong rush up the middle. All in all, its a very effective pass rush.

I have the most difficult time with people who play me wide outside and who are extremely quick. Ben plays me extremely wide. He's the type of ball player who in the past, from an athletic ability standpoint, has been limited, but he uses all his assets to their fullest extent.

Despite all the hitting we do against each other, we've never gotten into any kind of a fight or anything. There are heated moments on the line but never anything like an all out fist fight.

Football is the kind of game where unless there's a personality clash, the animosity is left on the field. I respect a man as a pro and I hope that he respects me as a pro. I think the highest tribute a player can give another player is to respect his ability.

It's true we've played against each other a lot, but that doesn't mean one game is the same as another. You have different game situations, different conditions. You could have a third and 10 situation or a third and 2. A man plays differently in these different situations. Granted, you'll do a lot of things the same way, but what you really have to look out for is the unorthodox situation where the man does something new.

I can't say there's any one game that I've played against Ben that stands out in my mind. I think the rivalry that exists between the teams speaks for itself. We've always had very good contests. In the early years they weren't the team that we were, but in recent years they've been a power and they've had great personnel. But every game we play them is a very good contest and we're pretty evenly matched ball clubs so the team that makes the least mistakes usually wins.

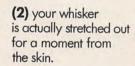
In playing our two games so close together, I don't think there's any advantage at all for either team. It doesn't make any difference to me when we play. As for my thing with Ben, he's not any rougher physically on me than any other defensive end so it doesn't matter.

When it comes to blocking Ben on passing or running plays, playing against the run isn't one of his stronger fortes, which is so often the case with most defensive ends. Their big forte usually is the pass rush. The rush, though, is my kind of game. I'd rather run block, but we pass 70 per cent of the time.

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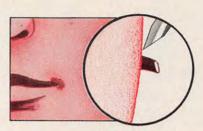
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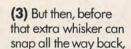


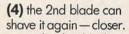


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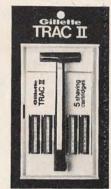
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Joe Namath:

could win it again with bad players, but in a Super Bowl game his presence makes good players better. That's charisma. And that's what Joe Namath has, more of it than any other NFL player. 5500,000 CHALLENGE

■ During the salary negotiations, Joe Namath, typically, did not evade the issue.

"I think," he said, "I should get more than any other player in the game."

He got it. He got \$250,000 a season for two years, the highest annual salary in National Football League history. But now he must justify his \$500,000 contract, now he must justify his reputation as the NFL's most coveted quarterback. Not that it will be a burden for him. When he signed his celebrated \$427,000 contract as a rookie with the New York Jets in 1965, there were cynics.

"Suppose you don't make it," a newsman asked him that year. "Do you still get all the money?"

Joe Namath sounded as if he never had considered the possibility. "I'll make it," he said.

He made it big. But now, after missing most of the last two seasons because of a damaged knee last year and a fractured wrist the year before, he has to make it big again. Even bigger this time because he's making a bigger salary. He proved that the Jets' original investment of \$427,000 was a bargain when he guided the historic 16-7 upset of the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III following the 1968

season. But now he's got to prove that he's worth \$250,000 a season.

With Namath, the Jets always have a chance to win the Super Bowl again. Without him, they have no chance. Not that he

Nobody doubted that he had earned it. The day he signed, one Jet fan shrugged.

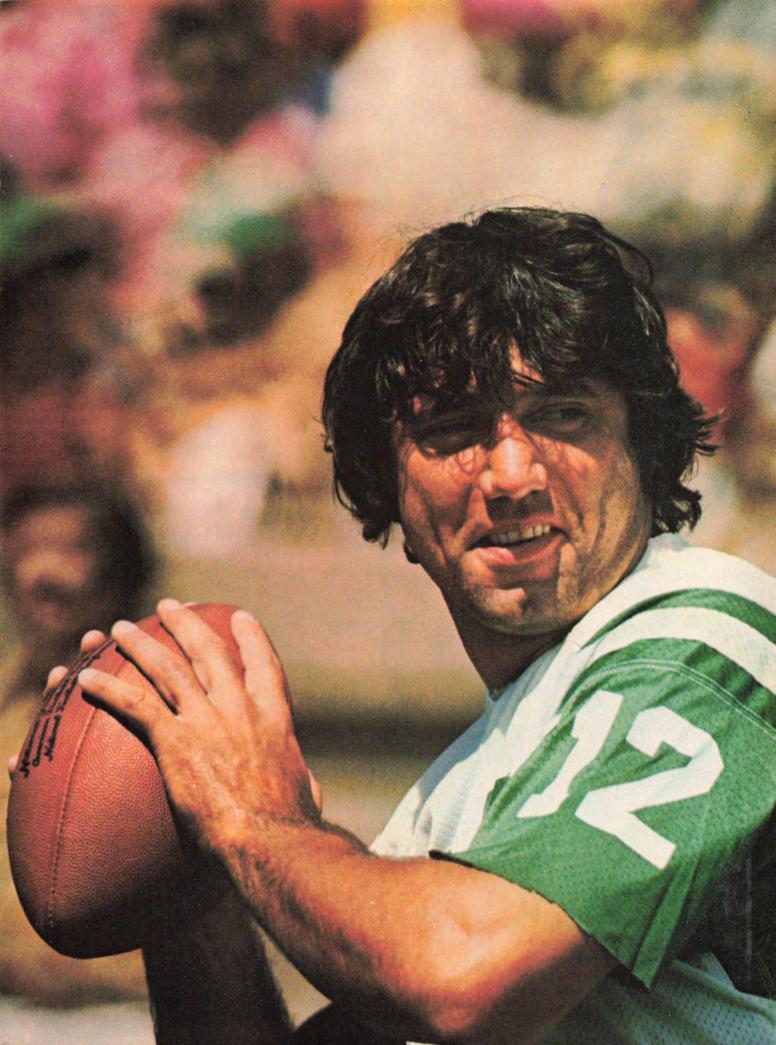
"For the best quarterback in the NFL," he said, "\$250,000 a season is cheap."

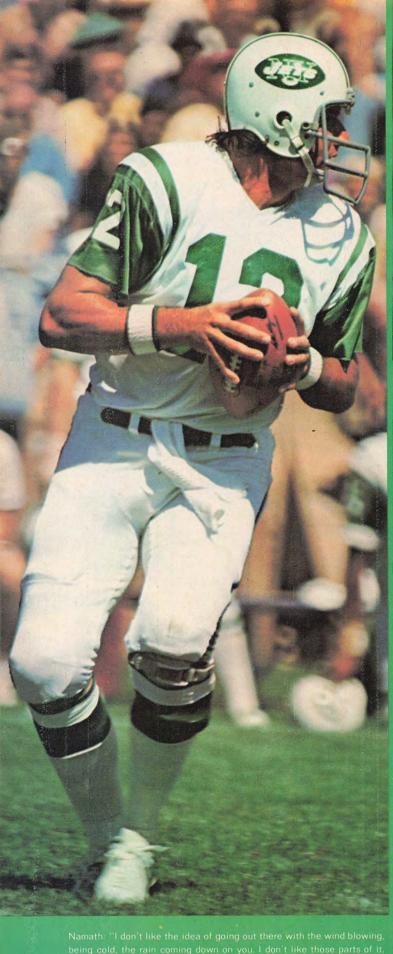
Most of the NFL coaches agree that Joe Namath is the best quarterback. Prior to the 1971 season, he had emerged as the most coveted quarterback in a survey of NFL coaches. Of the 22 coaches who participated, 12 were willing to name one quarterback. Nine of them named Joe Namath, two named Roman Gabriel of the Los Angeles Rams, one named Johnny Unitas of the Baltimore Colts.

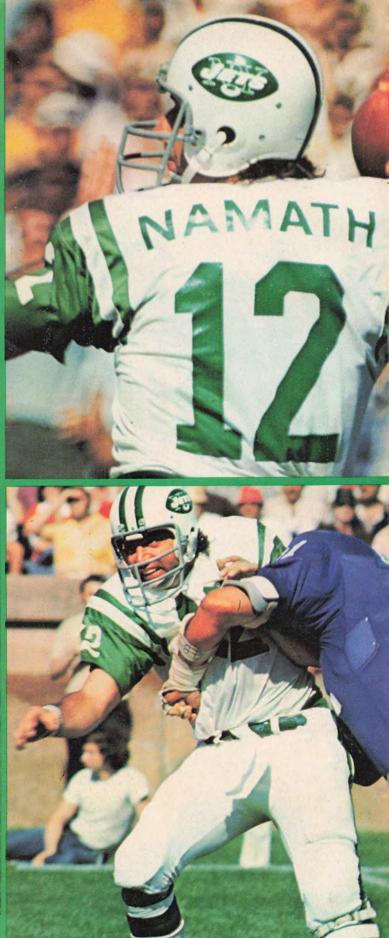
Including the coaches who grouped several quarterbacks as the best, 16 named Namath, nine named Gabriel.

The survey, which appeared originally in **The New York Times,** was used by Namath's attorney, James Walsh, throughout the contract negotiations with the Jets' front office.

"You've got the best quarterback," Walsh told them. "The coaches say so. And the best quarterback deserves the best contract."

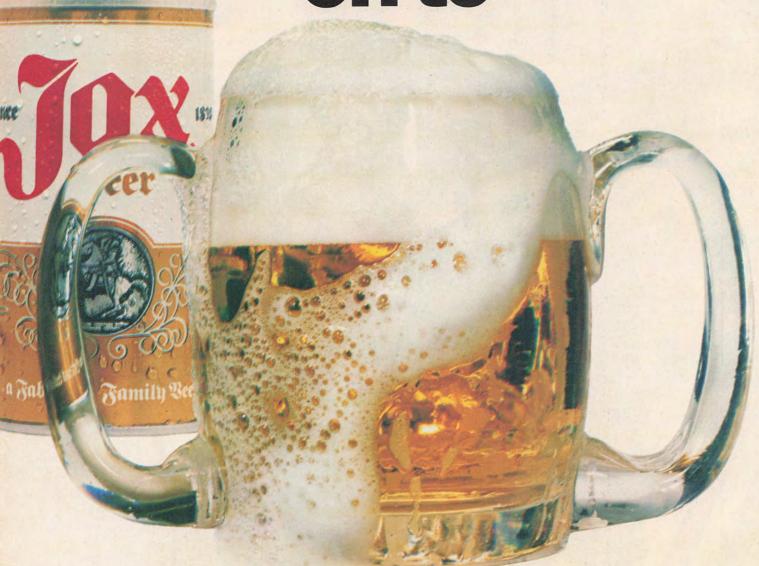








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Since that survey, Bob Griese of the Miami Dolphins was selected as the All-NFL quarterback last season. But that should add to the drama of Namath's duels within the AFC East this season with Griese, Unitas and Jim Plunkett of the New England Patriots—three quarterbacks of different eras.

Griese is Namath's contemporary. Unitas is the old master. Plunkett is the young heir apparent.

Of the six divisions in the NFL, the AFC East looms as the toughest. To win it, Namath must produce a sensational season. To qualify for the playoffs as the AFC's second-place team with the best record will be enough. And if the Jets are in the playoffs, look for Namath to be at his best, because another Super Bowl appearance will be within his grasp.

"If most of our guys stay healthy," he had said at training camp, "we can win the Super Bowl this year too."

He had been reminded of the Super Bowl by The Fifth Dimension singing "Soul Stone Picnic" on his portable radio.

"That was a great year, 1968," he said. "That song was big that year, that and 'Wichita Lineman,' a great year."

Ever since, the Jets who were part of that Super Bowl victory have considered it part of their heritage. To them, the Kansas City Chiefs, the Colts and the Dallas Cowboys have intruded on their property. If the Jets get close this season, the memory of that victory will be a psychological factor in their favor.

"Our young players don't understand," John Schmitt, the Jets' center, was saying recently. "But if we're near it, we'll make them understand."

Oddly, only the core of that Super Bowl team remains on the Jet roster. When training camp opened, only 15 players with diamond-studded rings from Super Bowl III were there. Namath at quarterback. Matt Snell and Emerson Boozer at running back. Don Maynard at wide receiver. Winston Hill, Dave Herman, John Schmitt and Randy Rasmussen on the offensive line. Gerry Philbin and John Elliott on the defensive line. Larry Grantham, Ralph Baker, Al Atkinson and Paul Crane at linebacker. John Dockery at cornerback.

But the most important is Namath, because he was the essence of that Super Bowl triumph.

With him, the Jets always have a chance to win it again. Without him, the Jets have no chance. No matter what the supporting cast may be. Not that he could win it again with bad players. But in a Super Bowl game, his presence would make good players better. That's charisma. And that's what Joe Namath has, more of it than any other NFL player.

He proved that last year against the San Francisco 49ers in the season's most memorable scenario.

In the Jets' first exhibition game, he had suffered a severely damaged left knee. Instinctively attempting to tackle Mike Lucci, the big middle linebacker of the Detroit Lions who had picked up a Jet fumble, Namath had been hit on the knee by Paul Naumoff, another Lion linebacker. As pain seared through the knee, Namath grabbed it with both hands.

"You all right, Joe, you all right?" Naumoff asked. "No," Namath replied, hobbling stiffly to his feet.

Surgery was performed the next day. But the injury had created a new dimension for Joe Namath's image—sympathy. Before the knee injury, his image as a playboy and wise guy had provoked some people into openly rooting that he would be injured seriously. But upon hearing the news that he would miss most, if not all, of the 1971 season most NFL followers appeared to be sad.

Slowly, deterred by nerve damage in his left foot that

created "the worst pain I've ever had," he resumed practice.

On the day before the Jets were to play the 49ers at Shea Stadium on the 11th weekend of the season, it appeared that he would be restored to the roster.

"All I know," he said that day, grinning, "is that I can't wait until tomorrow."

Between his knee surgery and his fractured wrist, he hadn't competed in a regular-season game in about 14 months.

"I don't like the idea of being off, but that happened," he said. "I like the idea of going out there and playing well."

Some people believed that he shouldn't return last season, that he was risking re-injury. One of his teammates, Emerson Boozer, stated flatly that Joe Namath shouldn't ever play again, period. But the quarterback disregarded those opinions. He was a football player and with four games remaining in the season, he was going to play football. Or at least he would be available to play football if the Jets needed him.

"The thing is," he said that day, "is that I think I'm well, or as well as I'm going to get. I don't like the idea of going out there with the wind blowing, being cold, the rain coming down on you, getting the hell beat out of you. I don't like those parts of it, but I like the part of going out there and performing, doing well, beating somebody, coming in after the game and having fun. That's what's good about it."

The next day Bob Davis opened at quarterback for the Jets, but in the second quarter, he suffered a sprained ankle. Seeing him on the ground, the 63,936 spectators, realizing that Namath had to play now, began to cheer.

"I said to myself, 'Oh, hell, well you got to go now,' " the quarterback acknowledged later. "I had talked to Weeb (Ewbank) before the game. Davis had been doing a pretty good job. It wouldn't have been exactly fair not to give him a chance to keep playing. I didn't know if I'd go in, but then I knew that I had to play.

"When you hear all that noise, naturally I was excited. I was hoping I'd lift the team. Just like anybody hopes that they're part of a situation where they can do some good. That's a natural thing. I just feel like I'm going to do well, and they feel like I'm going to do well. You have to have confidence. I said, 'We're going to go now.'"

And with Namath at quarterback, the Jets went. He threw three touchdown passes and in the final minute, he guided the Jets to the 49ers' 19-yard line before a third-down pass toward Eddie Bell in the end zone was intercepted by Johnny Fuller, a 49er safetyman, dooming the Jets to a 24-21 loss. But the melodrama had been magnificent.

"Terrific," Namath's father said to him later.

"We didn't win," the quarterback said, annoyed.

Joe Namath is like that. To him, if you don't win, it doesn't matter how close you come. And when he talks about passing, he's a perfectionist. That day, in his first NFL game in 14 months, he had completed 11 of 27 passes for 258 yards against one of the NFL's best defensive teams.

"I didn't play well at all," he said. "The best pass I threw as far as putting something on it and getting good flight was the last one that was intercepted."

One of his touchdown passes had covered 57 yards. The receiver was Rich Caster, who had outmaneuvered the 49er defenders on a post pattern but had to slow down slightly to catch Namath's pass in front of the goal posts.

"I got to satisfy myself as far as performance goes," Namath said. "You're the only person who knows what

you're doing out there. That pass to Caster slipped."

He had no reason to alibi. That pass had put a touch-down on the scoreboard. Another touchdown had occurred when Caster reached low for a pass around his knees. That one hadn't satisfied Namath, either, but he had accepted the 6 points. He also had accepted his share of bruises, as any quarterback must. His knee surgery had not created any sympathy among the 49er pass-rushers. Cedrick Hardman, whose nickname is Nasty, had swatted Namath several times.

"When the game ended," Namath said, smiling, "that big Hardman came over to shake hands. He told me I was still his idol. I thanked him sincerely."

Team by team, the players in what is known as the old NFL are learning what the old AFL players have known all along—that Joe Namath can't be intimidated. Of all the old AFL teams, the Oakland Raiders attempted to intimidate him the most. But if anything, he performed at a higher level. Before the 1968 AFL championship game, the Raiders were enroute to New York in their chartered jet when John Madden, then an assistant coach but now the head coach, was discussing Namath's skill.

"Maybe if we get to him fast," somebody said to Madden, "it'll make him gun-shy."

"No way," Madden said. "You can't intimidate Joe Namath. He just doesn't scare."

Nor does Joe Namath think that quarterbacks should be protected, and perhaps preserved, by rules that presumably would increase their safety.

"I hope they don't put in any rules like that," he once said, "a drastic rules change would ruin the game."

At the time, he mentioned that nothing should be done "to detract from the essence" of professional football.

"The essence," he explained, "is the fight to get at the quarterback. The fight between the offensive line and the defensive line. If the defense wins, you've got to give them their trophy."

Their trophy? "Me," he said.

Two years ago, when his passing wrist was fractured under the impact of Billy Ray Smith of the Baltimore Colts, he was a trophy. Last year, he was victimized by a linebacker who was blocking for a teammate running with a recovered

fumble. Some observers thought that Paul Naumoff had crippled Namath with a "cheap shot," but the quarterback never complained.

"It wouldn't have happened," he said, "if I had made the tackle."

Spoken like the football player he is. No longer does he

Spoken like the football player he is. No longer does he talk of making movies, or of his business deals although he has several lucrative commercials and endorsements. Now he talks of football. And after two seasons of frustration, he talks of winning again, winning the Super Bowl perhaps.

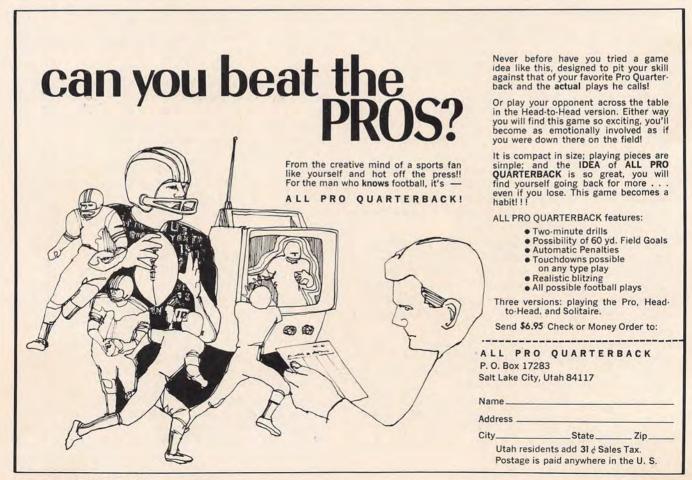
As dramatic as his performance was against the 49ers last year, he was more impressed with the Jets' two victories at the end of the season over the Patriots and the Cincinnati Bengals.

With those two victories, the Jets finished with a 6-8 won-lost record, quite respectable considering the injuries to so many important players. And after the 13-6 triumph over the Patriots, a member of the Jets' staff congratulated Namath on his performance.

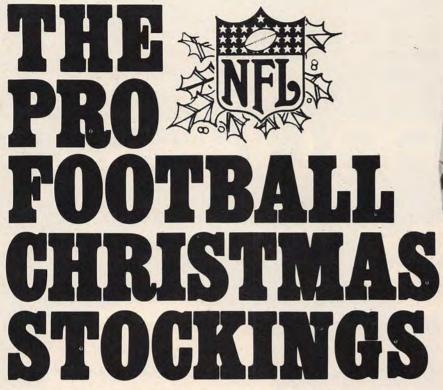
"You're a winner again," the man said.

"I'm always a winner," Joe Namath said.

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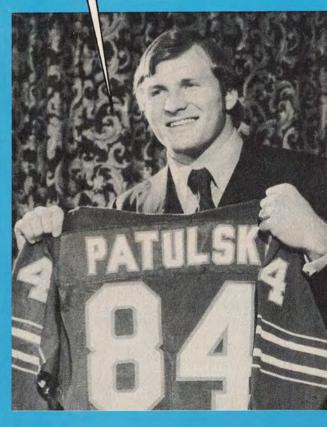
Address

It's that time again—that impossible time when action, gesture, expression, or situation is caught by the camera in such a way that your Pro Quarterback editors must respond with their questionable sense of humor, resulting in a few more additions to the horrible collection of...

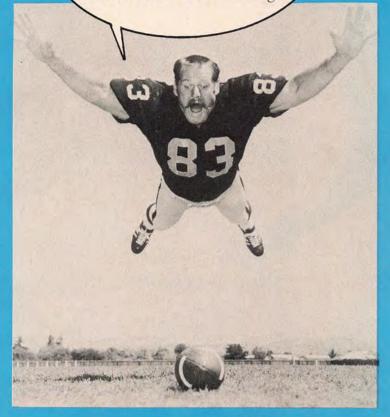
50 YARD LINES

You really take this game seriously, don't you kid?

... but thanks to X-15, the new washday miracle, my jerseys come out clean as new!



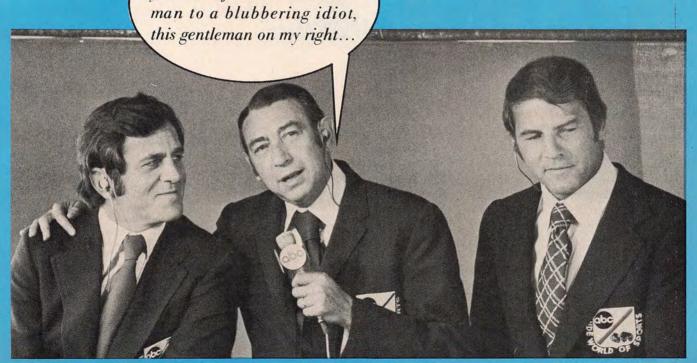
I think I got it this time... first I land on the ball, swallow it, then look at the camera and say—"I can't believe I ate the whole thing!"

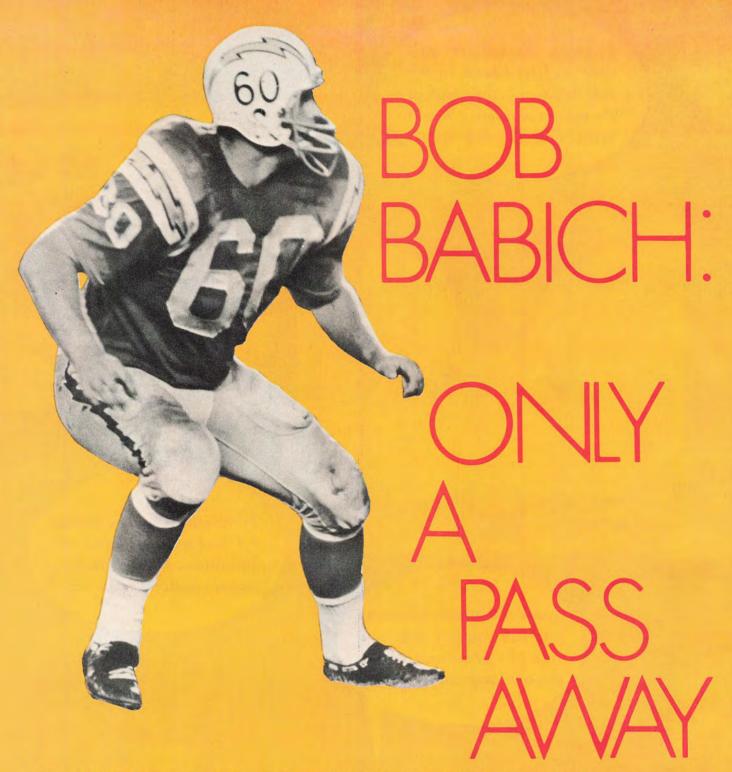


... and if that didn't convince you that football reduces a



Somehow, when they told me I'd be kicking against the Dolphins, I thought they meant something else...





■ He could feel the unspeakable wrenching pain of ligaments being severed. Then, with agonizing effort, Bob Babich tried to rise from the ground. The attempt was futile. Moments earlier, Leroy Kelly of the Browns had slanted sharply to his right, bolting into the line for five yards before Babich zeroed in with full force. Kelly was downed but it was Babich, the young San Diego Charger linebacker, who was felled.

This was late in August of 1969, during a pre-season game in Cleveland, one that Babich had anticipated with

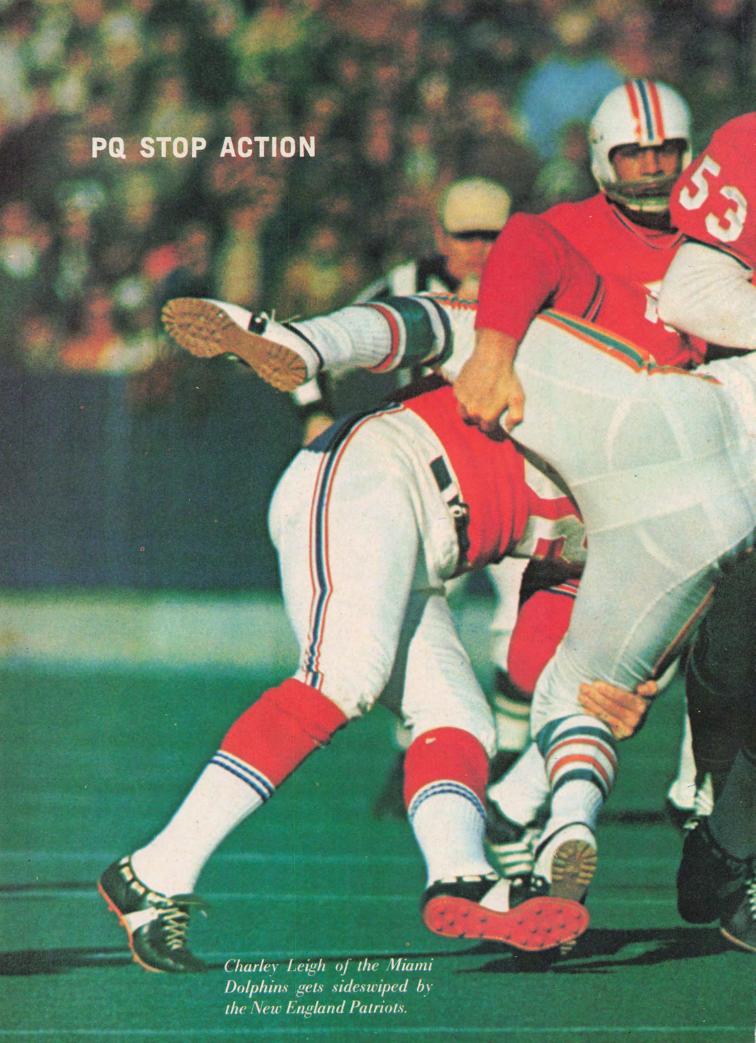
such shining expectations. From the time he was seven, the Browns were Babich's team as he grew to manhood in the northern Ohio steel town of Campbell, 60 miles from Cleveland. Now he had earned a starting berth on the Chargers. He had become an instant hero to the fans in San Diego. His family and friends were watching on the television.

But with that one play, early in the first period, his rookie year ended. "I had all my weight planted on one leg and I had him stopped," Babich recalls. "Then, everyone joined in on

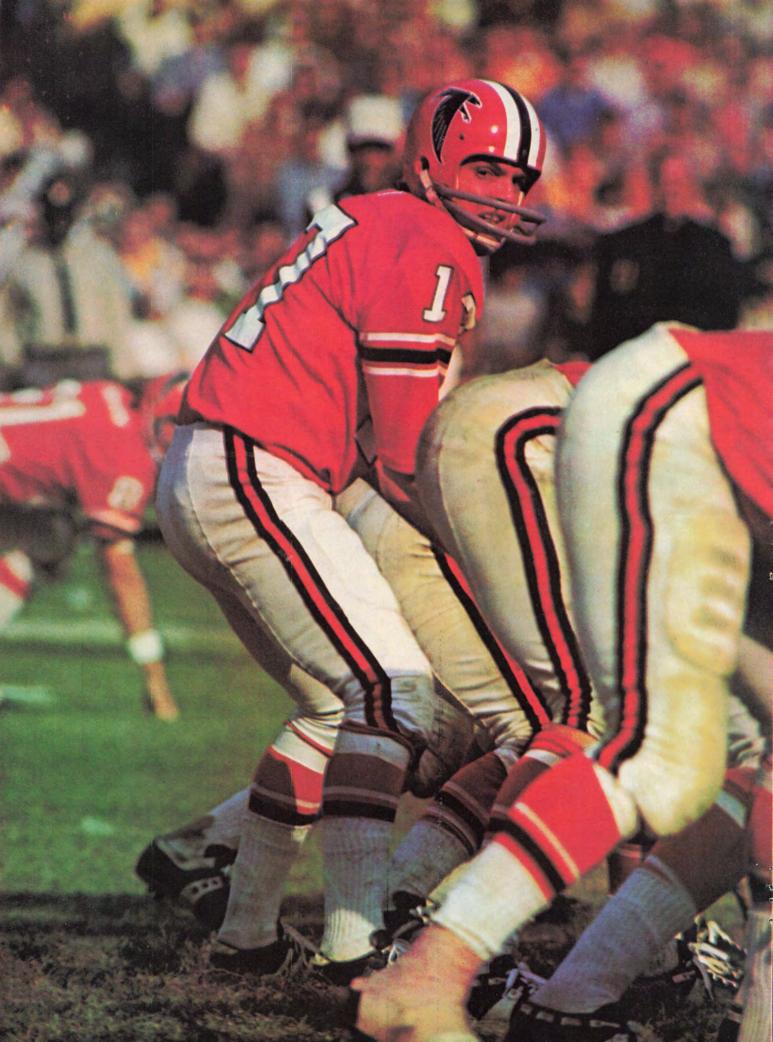
Continued on page 72

By Don Freeman









Berry: "Everyone has his doubts when he comes into the NFL and it's even harder to play for an expansion team and a bunch of guys thrown together. You don't really have those great athletes. You're always wondering, gee, are you really good enough to play in this league or not."

■ Scene One: Fran Tarkenton is sitting in a Bloomington, Minn., steak house with two writer friends on a biting cold and snowy wintry Saturday in 1966 and telling them that as far as he knows he won't play in the Sunday game against the Atlanta Falcons. He does not seem particularly bitter, but disappointment is there. After all, he had made a national collegiate reputation at the University of Georgia and he resides in Atlanta. It was a matter of pride.

Scene Two: It is Sunday and Minnesota coach Norm Van Brocklin has decided to go with 5-11, 185-pound Bob Berry at quarterback and go all the way with him. Berry is a second-year player out of the University of Oregon. Van Brocklin, also known as the Dutchman, has been losing and it's said Dutchmen don't like to lose and he is going to do something about it. He is going to put Tarkenton, also known as the Scrambler, on the bench and tie his wagon to the fiesty shoulders of young Berry. The gamble fails and the Falcons win on a long interception return.

Scene Three: It is the off-season and Tarkenton sits down, takes pen in hand and writes a letter to "Dear Jim and Members of The Board." Jim is Jim Finks, general manager of the Vikings. "I shall not return," Tarkenton says in so many words. Shortly thereafter Van Brocklin resigns. In the meanwhile Tarkenton is traded to the New York Giants for enough draft choices to make the Vikings a future dynasty.

Scene Four: It is 1967 and Tarkenton is playing with the Giants and Berry is throwing only seven passes all season playing behind Joe Kapp with the Vikings and Van Brocklin, pencil and microphone in hand, has joined the media as color analyst for the New Orleans Saints. "In your opinion, what was the turning point..."

Scene Five: As the NFL world turns into 1968, Bob Berry and receiver Paul Flatley are victims of the final Viking cuts and sign as free agents with the Falcons. The package cost

By Al Thomy





Berry: "The last year I was with the Vikings, the year they had Joe Kapp, they won only three or four games. So they hadn't really jelled at that point."

\$200. Now you've got the picture. Bob, who had played for Norm but not for Bud, is now playing for Norm but not with the first unit. He is behind Randy. The Falcons go to San Francisco and lose their third straight game and Norb Hecker is not with them anymore. He is replaced by Norm, who is not a media man anymore, and Berry and the Dutchman are reunited. The war is on and Randy Johnson and Berry are on the target area and are sacked 71 times. They split the season.

Scene Six: It is the summer of '71 and Johnson, not playing, wants to be traded and Van Brocklin accommodates him by exchanging him for Tarkenton's backup quarterback, Dick Shiner. Tarkenton leaves camp in a financial wrangle, but returns and things are never the same.

Scene Seven: As we rejoin this continuing and compelling drama, it is 1972 and Berry, who was once Tarkenton's caddy, is now quarterback in residence of the Falcons, while Johnson, who was once Berry's superior and backup and Tarkenton's relief man, is now quarterback of the Giants, and Tarkenton, who once played ahead of Berry and Johnson, is back at Minnesota where this whole thing started when Berry played ahead of him on a wintry Sunday in 1966. Finis, as the NFL world turns.

Six years after that disastrous afternoon in Bloomington, Norm Van Brocklin finds justification in the use of the young man from Oregon. No one criticizes Bob Berry anymore.

In 1971 he had the highest completion percentage (60.2) in the National Football League. He passed for 11 touchdowns and 2,005 yards, including 301 against Los Angeles and 309 against Detroit, no minor feats. His statistics were impressive, but Atlanta fans will long remember one game, the last one, from the 1971 season. Forty seconds remained in the NFL year when Berry lofted a 22-yard touchdown

strike to rookie wide receiver Ken Burrow. The touchdown gave the Falcons a 24-20 decision over New Orleans and their first winning season, 7-6-1. Some credit, of course, must go to Shiner who stepped in and won three games after Berry suffered a severe hamstring pull in the fourth game of the season. But when the bull was positioned and prepared for the thrust, the winning thrust, Berry was there for the coup de grace.

Who is Robert Chadwick Berry Jr.? Quickly, Bob Berry is...son of Robert Chadwick Berry Sr., football coach at San Jose City College, Oregon's all-time leader in passing and total offense and a participant in the Hula Bowl, East-West game and Coaches' all-America game. His college credentials were impeccable. He played his high school football for his father, the coach. At Oregon he broke the records held by Norm Van Brocklin, the coach. That is the pre-NFL Bob Berry.

In the National Football League, where he became an overnight success after six years of mental anguish and getting off the canvas, he is 5-11 Bob Berry, the quarterback "too short to play in the pros." Try as he may, Berry cannot escape stereotypists in the media and elsewhere. They walk around with little handbooks and weight charts and measure the warriors. Now, a defensive tackle, he has to be 6-5 and 260; a running back, 6-2 and 215; a quarterback, 6-3, 200, and down the line. They add, of course, he must have speed, ability, quickness and that intangible quality, a fighting heart.

"If you ask me if I'm too short, I'm going to get right cross," Berry said in a recent interview.

He has been asked the question before, many times. "Hey, Bob, do you think you're too short to play in the NFL?" He had a quick and clever reply. "I don't know; I've never been any taller." No one mentions his height when he has a big game. He wasn't too short when he put 38 points on the boards against Detroit. But he was short when he and the Falcons failed to score on the 49ers late in the season. Everything, they say, is relative.

Another under-six feet quarterback put it best. "Okay, so I'm 5-10," he said. "Suppose I am 6-2 and all the linemen are 6-7. Could I see any better?"

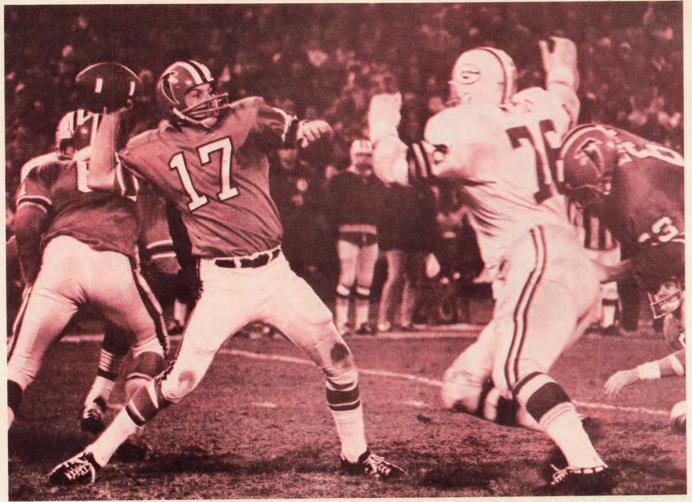
Perhaps Berry has been "too short" because he has never been with anything except an expansion team, first the Vikings and now the Falcons.

"Everyone has his doubts when he comes into the NFL," says Berry, "and it's even harder to play for an expansion team and a bunch of guys thrown together. You don't really have those great athletes. You're always wondering, gee, are you really good enough to play in this league or not.

"Then when you start winning and get the athletes it sure makes everything a lot easier. You know, the last year I was with the Vikings, the year they had Joe Kapp, they won only three or four games. So they hadn't really jelled at that point either."

The summer of 1968 has to be the most depressing period of Berry's athletic life.

"I had gone to Bud Grant after we had started training camp," he recalls. "I could more or less see the writing on the wall. They had brought Cuozzo in and Joe Kapp had started the year before. I had gone through probably my best training camp and played quite a bit during the exhibition season because of injuries to other people. I asked to be traded. I said, 'Look, I want to play for the Vikings, but the worst thing that could happen to me was to hang around all training camp and then be one of the last cut.



Perhaps Berry has been stuck with his "too short" label because he has never been with anything except an expansion team, first the Vikings and now the Falcons.

That's how a lot of ballplayers end up with no job. So he kept me all through the exhibition season, kept encouraging me and what not and I said, well, I'm here to stay. When that final cut came, down to 40 players, he called Flatley and myself in and told us he was releasing us.

"So I asked him, 'why are you releasing me? . . . You know, we had this talk before and all that.' And he said, 'Well, you had a good exhibition season and we couldn't release you.' But then that didn't make sense either. In a later talk, from what I understood, he wanted an older quarterback. He figured the age when a quarterback really comes into his own is 28-29 years old and, of course, Kapp was this age and I was quite a bit younger at that time."

So, for a cash outlay of \$100, the Falcons picked up a quarterback.

This summer, for the first time, Berry reported to a training camp knowing he was the starting quarterback. This situation did not prevail last year. There were rumors that Van Brocklin was interested in Kapp. Randy Johnson had asked to be traded, but he was in camp and working out. Soon he was gone, however, and the Kapp talk died a natural death and Berry stood tall as an NFL quarterback.

Given such a vote of confidence, he promptly went to work on three heavyweights. He was on-target on 16 of 21 passes in an opening-game victory over San Francisco, passed for 301 yards in a tie with Los Angeles and 309 yards in the 41-38 loss to Detroit. For the great day at Tiger Stadium, he was named Associated Press NFL Offensive Player of the Week.

His response was characteristic of his bulldogish nature.

"I don't see how a player on a losing team can be player of the week," he said.

Berry has some of the Van Brocklin traits. He does not appreciate inane questions, he is confident, he does not lose well and he can be abrasive. But he is a leader and his teammates respect him and respond to his leadership. Last year when Van Brocklin took over the play-calling for newcomer Shiner and continued after Berry's return, Bob was outspoken and said, yes, he'd prefer to call his own plays but that he worked for Van Brocklin and Van Brocklin was the boss.

This was quarterback talk and the kind of talk that Van Brocklin, always an independent soul, appreciated. Play-calling was returned to the quarterbacks this year. As Van Brocklin put it, "Our quarterbacks will call the plays as long as they call the plays we want called." Hmm-mm-mm, that just about covers it.

Berry received excellent training in player-coach relationship when he quarterbacked for his father.

"There were a lot of tense moments around the dinner table," Berry says with a grin. "Maybe I'd throw a couple of interceptions in a game and get chewed out and then try to forget it at dinner that night but it'd be kind of difficult. Not much was said, but the gloom and tension were there."

The tension is always there for a quarterback, especially for an NFL quarterback, but there are rewards. Like success.

Perhaps Bob Berry is no million dollar quarterback, but he flat out knows he's no \$100 quarterback.



WE DID IT AGAIN!

It's hard to believe but our second February Super Bowl issue is selling even better than our first. In no time at all newsstands reported sell-outs of this extraordinary issue. We couldn't accommodate them all with reorders, so if you missed our February classic the first time around, or bought one but want two, you can still get a copy. But only if you act quickly. We printed extra issues just for people like you who want a memorable reminder of the 1971 football season.

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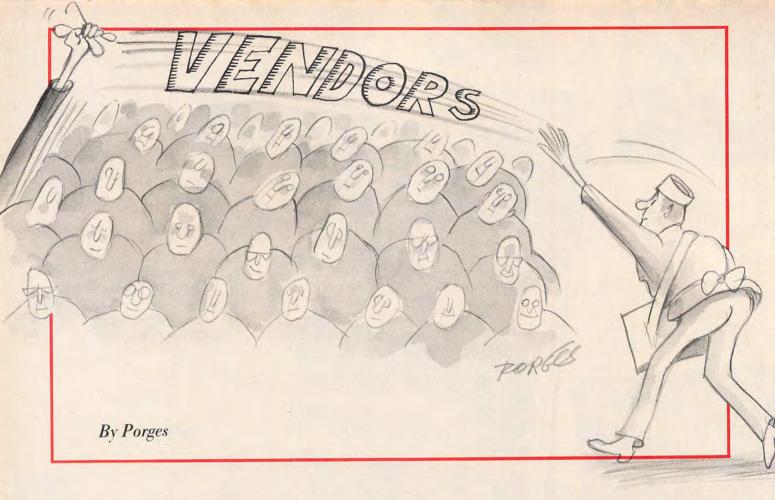
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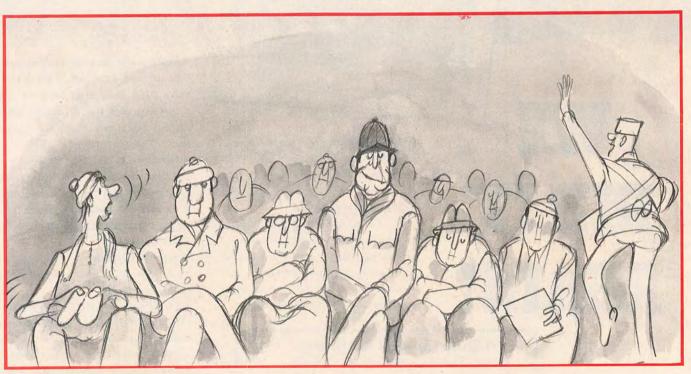
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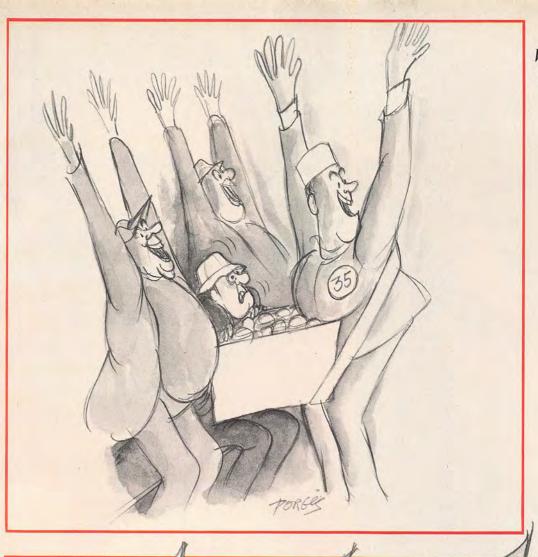
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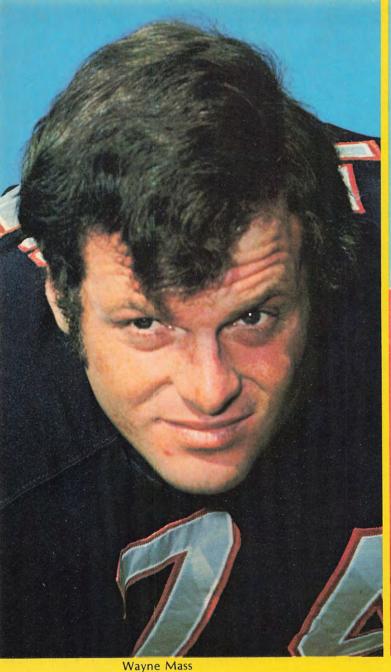
Where is my dog?

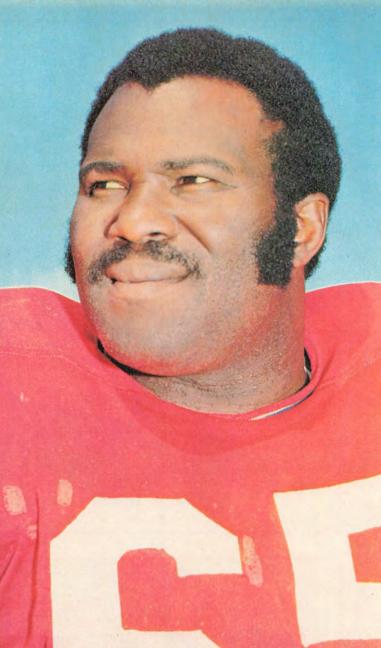


Wow, what a touchdown catch!

> ONE ICE CREAM and one Buffalo Bills pennant.





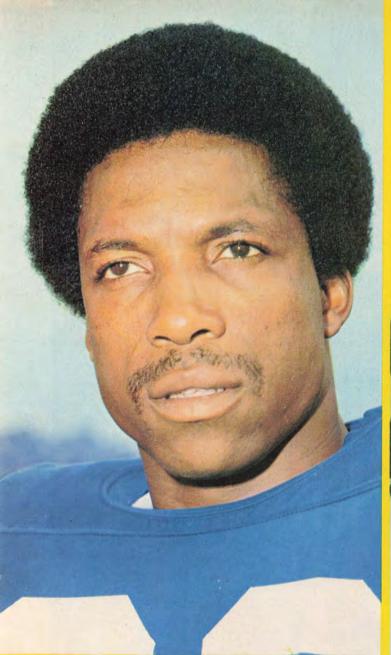


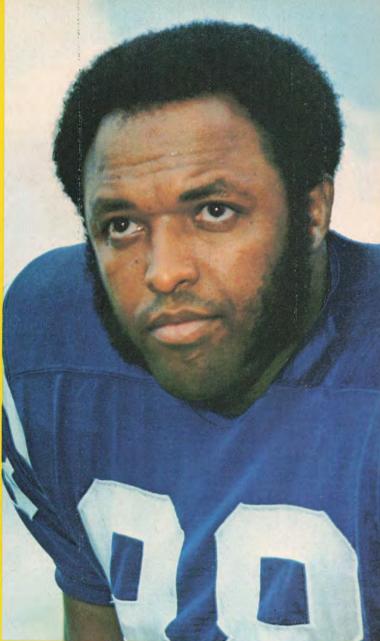
Houston Antwine

By Murray Chass

"It is clear," says Players Association executive director Ed Garvey, "that there is an atmosphere in the league of blackballing, and a player who becomes a player rep realizes he's running the risk of getting cut or traded just because he's standing up for what he believes in. It's that atmosphere that's hard to deal with and which we must eliminate." What Garvey is hinting at is....

ARE PLAYER REPS





Kermit Alexander

John Mackey

■ John Mackey was voted the greatest tight end in the history of the National Football League. John Mackey is president of the NFL Players Association. Last year John Mackey spent most of his time on the Baltimore bench.

Bob Lurtsema, as player representative of the New York Giants, conducted for owner Wellington Mara last year a secret study of the extent of the rapport Mara had with his players. Three hours after Bob Lurtsema gave Wellington Mara the results of his

study that showed the owner had no rapport with the players, he was placed on waivers.

Did the benching of Mackey and the release of Lurtsema stem from their involvement in the Players Association or were the actions of the Colts and the Giants purely coincidental?

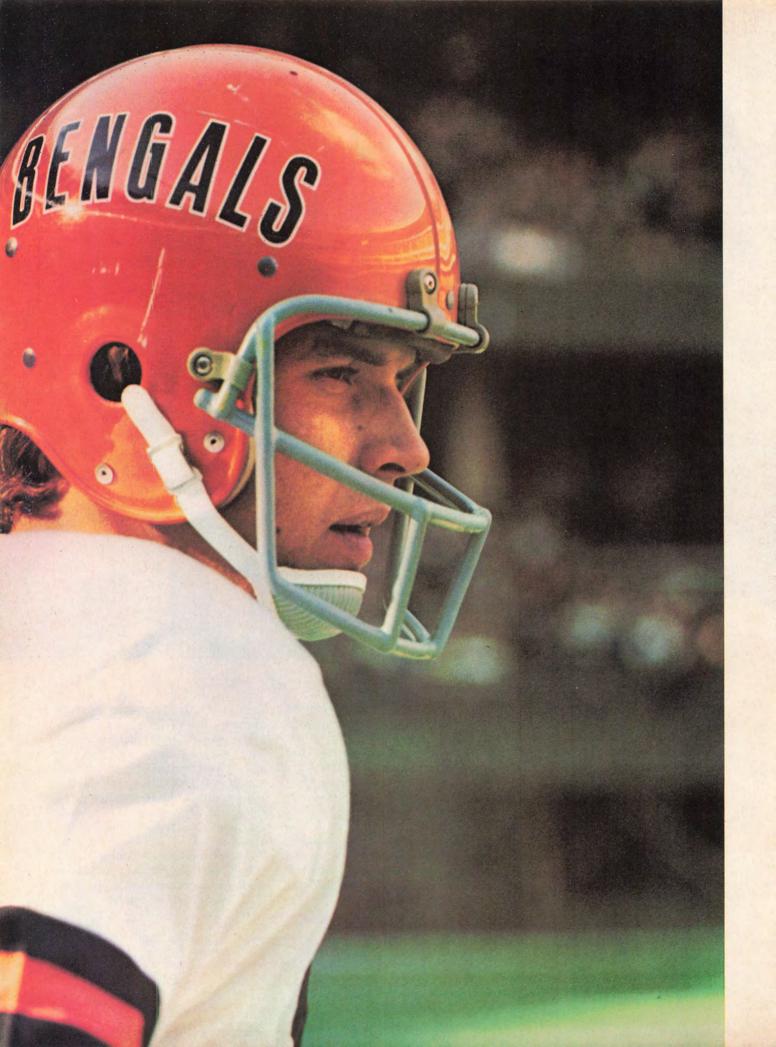
Officials of both teams, naturally, state unequivocally that Mackey and Lurtsema were reduced to virtual or complete inactivity for football rea-

sons, not for labor-management reasons.

The players don't contend otherwise, but they do wonder about it. The Players Association, in general, and its executive director, Ed Garvey, in particular, wonder about a lot of things that have happened in the past few years to players involved in the association.

"A lot of things happen to our player reps," says Mackey, who is in his third year as president of the asso-Continued on page 68

BLACKLISTED?



Bob Trumpy: WHICH CINCINNATI?

By Ernie Salvatore

■ The day the call came, Trumpy was in the back room of a drug store in North Hollywood, Cal., collecting a load of bottled medicine, tubes of unguents, and other medical elixirs for restocking the shelves out front. It was hot, he was sweaty, and it was only 10 o'clock in the morning.

The call was from his wife, Patricia. "I've got some good news for you," she trilled.

Surveying his circumstances—another "new" job that was paying him even less than the one he'd just quit, a pregnant wife, a lot of unpaid bills, a future going nowhere—Trumpy was unable to guess what new goodies his life was about to bring.

"You've got a telegram from Cincinnati," she said.

"Cincinnati? That's really funny," Trumpy laughed. "I don't know anyone in Cincinnati," he said. "I've never been to Cincinnati. Not even within 200 miles of Cincinnati."

"Don't you want to know what it says?" she asked.

"Go ahead," he said. "Read it."

Out front the store manager was shouting what sounded like a series of commands for Trumpy to "get cracking with those supplies, or, did he think he was paying him all that money (\$75 a week?) to stand around all morning in the back of the store talking on the telephone?"

Patricia interrupted Trump's response. "Oh, Trump!" she shouted. "I already HAVE read it. Honey, it says you've been drafted by the Cincinnati Beagles!"

Trumpy was thunderstruck. "The Cincinnati BEAGLES?"

"Yes. Isn't it wonderful? The Cincinnati Beagles."

A light clicked on inside Trumpy's head. It was HIS turn to get excited. "Patricia!" he shouted. He waved the store manager away. "It's not the Cincinnati Beagles. It's the Cincinnati BENGALS! I'm in pro football! I've been picked by Paul Brown! Paul Brown picked ME! Can you imagine that?"

"Beagles, Bengals, what's the difference?" Pat said. "The telegram says they've drafted you in the 12th round of something or other in New York, and that you've got to be in Wilmington, Ohio, for the start of camp on July 5!"

"I don't know where Wilmington is, either," Trumpy said. "But, I'll be there—even if it's the one in Delaware."

He hung up smiling. The store manager, having heard enough of the one-sided conversation to understand it, already had his hand out. Soon, the two of them were pumping away.

"Congratulations, Bob," the store manager said. Visions of the new status his modest store might one day acquire as the early home of a pro football star filled his head.

Thus, did the door first open into the world of pro football for Bob Trumpy who had come to decide, as he wandered through a succession of dreary jobs after graduating from Utah, that the game had passed him by.

But now, the dreams that began way back in Illinois, and had been nurtured during a fine scholastic career at Springfield High, were alive again. To Trumpy the phone call still seems like yesterday.

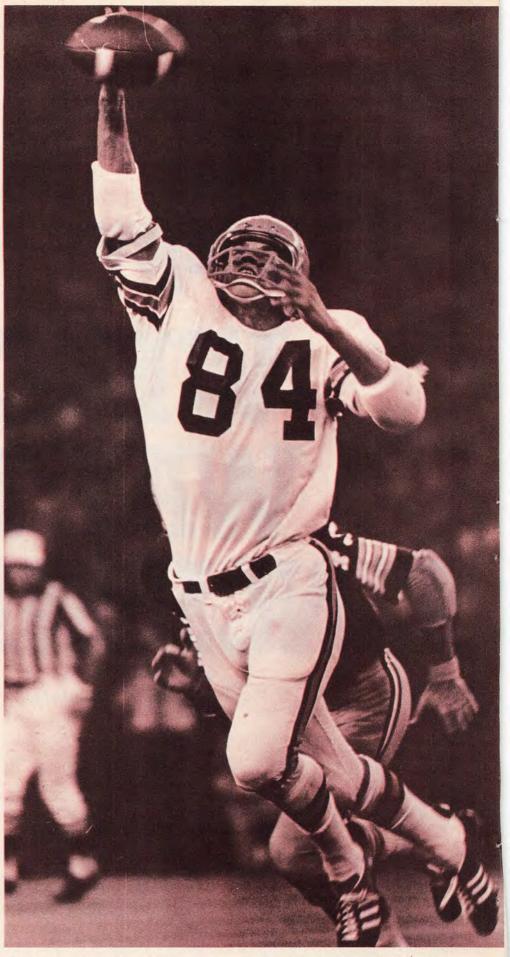
"But, it was four years ago," he says.
"I still find it hard to believe that life was any different for me than what it's been like since."

What it's been like has been extraordinary. Bob Trumpy today is regarded as one of the biggest (6-5 and 240 pounds) and swiftest receivers in the National Football League. Twice in his four years with the Bengals Bob was named to the old American Football League (1969) and its successor, the American Football Conference allstar team (1970). In 1970 he played in the Pro Bowl, and last year, despite a shaky quarterback situation, he led all Bengal receivers with a career high 41 catches.

Paul Brown calls him "a very dedicated young man. We thought he'd be a good one." Blanton Collier, speaking as a former opponent, has a more descriptive word.

"He's fantastic," says Collier, now enjoying his third year away from the coaching command at Cleveland where he succeeded Brown. "He's probably the finest tight end in football. A tremendous blocker—a great blocker."

But, Trumpy is more than a tight end. Last year at mid-season Brown



Trumpy is more than a tight end. Last year at mid-season he was switched to wide receiver and without hesitation whirled away to lead all club receivers at season's end.

switched him to wide receiver when injuries forced some lineup changes. The old master did it without hesitation.

Trumpy's whirlwind finish to lead all club receivers proved Brown's wisdom. Or, as Bill Walsh, the quarterback-receiver coach of the Bengals once said of him, "Bob has a remarkable ability to adjust himself to certain unexpected situations, and to come up with the big play as well."

The records show, for example, that in Trumpy's second year he caught three touchdown passes of 65 yards or more. In all three the defense had a chance to catch him in sprints of 30 to 40 yards but couldn't.

That same season he caught nine scoring passes, two more than the Bengals' entire output in their 1968 maiden season. The high point was a 31-31 tie game against Houston in the Astrodome when he caught three thrown by Greg Cook.

"Trumpy has another thing going for him," trainer Marv Pollin said one day. "He has a high tolerance for injuries. If he can possibly play he will—and, he usually exceeds himself when he does."

Example: In 1969, the week after he'd made his fifth touchdown reception, Trumpy and Howard Fest, an offensive lineman, were bird hunting in an abandoned rock quarry.

As Trumpy was bracing himself against the side, preparing to shoot, the gravel gave way. Trumpy slipped and caught his leg on a rock outcropping. The result: 21 stitches.

"The Kansas City game was coming up and I was determined to play," Trumpy recalls. "So, I had Marv tape the leg as tightly as possible and I forced myself to walk without a limp whenever I was around the ball club. Coach Brown was very concerned about me, but I assured him I was okay. He never did know how serious the injury was."

Brown needn't have worried. Trumpy caught a scoring pass against Kansas City. But, the day after the game the leg hurt so bad he cried.

Against Oakland the following week he again played without noticeable discomfort. The next week—just two weeks from the point of the accident, he had his great day in the Astrodome.

"I had to make some changes for this game," he told sportswriters afterwards. "My man (safety Ken Houston) is almost as big as I am at 6-3 and maybe 200. And, he's faster. So, I had to concentrate more on my moves than in trying to outrun him."

In the first quarter he got behind Ken—the NFL's career interception leader—and took a 44 yard touchdown pass from Cook that capped a triple reverse. In the second quarter Bob nailed a 70 yard super bomb from Greg after first faking Houston into moving the wrong way. The piece de resistance was No. 3.

It came on the first play of the fourth quarter. Trumpy beat W. K. Hicks and was in the clear at the goal line when he looked up for the ball. To his dismay, he saw that Cook had underthrown it from the Oiler 14 and that it was heading right into Hicks' arms.

Instinctively, Trump reached in and tipped the ball in the air then, as Hicks sprawled sideways, fell over backwards into the end zone.

"I wasn't even thinking about catching the ball anymore," he told the scribes. "I was just trying to stop the interception.

"I was flat on my back and so I was able to keep my eye on the ball all the time. It just dropped right into my hands—completing a lousy play on my part."

The stitches came out of his leg that week, but the Houston game had given Trumpy a badly swollen wrist. He'd totaled 128 yards in the three touchdown passes and 159 making five catches overall. But, the wrist had taken a pounding on his blocking assignments, too.

Nevertheless, against the New York Jets in the season's finale he caught his ninth touchdown pass of the season to avoid a Bengal shutout.

Despite having proved himself in countless subsequent situations, Trumpy continues to find it difficult to believe he's a successful major league athlete, though only 26 years of age.

"It's all so coincidental," he says. "Things easily could've gone the other way. It scares me to think about it."

It was pure chance, he'll tell you, by way of one illustration; in the Easter vacation of his sophomore (and last) year at Illinois he looked out of the right hand window of the car he was riding in down Highway A-1 in Florida.

"Up ahead I saw this fancy motel, like maybe 400 others I'd seen just like it since we crossed into Florida," he recalls. "Two stories high, divided into sections, palm trees all around, swimming pool out front and the shuffle-

board courts. But, what caught my eye about this one—what made it seem. like something extra special to me—was the biggest pile of empty beer cans I'd never seen. It must've been 15 feet high and it was moving! Behind the pile was this bulldozer. It was shoving those cans to a collection point just off the highway like they were a pile of dirt. 'Hey,' I yelled to my buddies, 'This is THE place. Let's stop here. No place can be all bad where they drink THAT much beer! There's got to be a reason.'"

A quick check told Trumpy they were on the outskirts of Daytona Beach, capital of the stock car racing world, possessor of the longest, hardest, prettiest beach in the country.

"There were six of us in the car," Trumpy smiles, remembering. "So, four of us signed in. The other two climbed in through the windows and we took turns sleeping on the floor."

It was also pure coincidence that among the guests already signed in were Sid Gillman, head football coach and general manager of the San Diego Chargers, Al LoCasale, assistant to Gillman, and several other AFL club officials. They were there for some kind of conference.

Trumpy knew nothing of this, however, nor would he until his rookie year on the Bengals when LoCasale would tell him.

"The first full day we were there," Bob recalls, "we were all out on the beach. Nothing like fresh air, sunshine, and salt water to cure a beer hangover. A guy about my age, carrying a football, saw the Illinois jersey I was wearing. He asked me if I was a football player—I told him I was—and he suggested that we do a little passing and catching since he was a quarterback from someplace or other.

"What I didn't know was that this guy had spotted Gillman and LoCasale leaning on the terrace railing outside their room from where they were watching us. He wanted to make an impression, I guess. Me? I didn't know from nothing. I told him what patterns I was going to run and he'd throw. He kept wanting to throw 'the bomb' though—so I ran a couple of fly patterns. Caught everything he threw, too."

LoCasale remembers it like it was yesterday.

"Sure, I see this big, fast, graceful kid with the body of a god, catching passes like it was as natural as breathing. Sid is next to me and he's watching, too. Down the beach the kid goes, and the passer unloads a good one."

His feet skimming the water rolling in on his right, Trump bolted straightaway and made a one-handed grab. Gillman's elbow was digging into Lo Casale's side.

"We got to check that guy out," Lo Casale said. Gillman agreed. The registry provided the name. It was stamped indelibly in LoCasale's brain.

"What if I'd been looking out of the lefthand side of the car?" Trumpy asks. This was now one week before the end of the 1971 season—a gray, rainy Monday that had begun in the Bengals' offices wedged between the lower and upper decks of Riverfront Stadium like the palatial cabin of a dirigible.

"Guess I'd still be in the drugstore," he smiles.

"The way LoCasale spotted me—it's like a lot of other coincidences that've made up my life," he said.

But, surely, he was told, pro scouts were watching you at Illinois and later at Utah.

"True," he agreed, "but, think of the situation. A guy in the football business leans across a railing outside a motel room to get some fresh air. What he sees that day makes an impression on him—a good first impression. Nope. I have to think it was one of those predestined type things."

Trumpy allows his mind to wander back over his life and provides another twist of fate that eventually put him into Riverfront Stadium on Sunday afternoons before 60,000 roaring fans.

His father, Robert, Sr., was a football nut who played at Illinois State before World War II began. He decided on the Air Force. What if Robert Trumpy, Sr., of Pekin, Ill., had chosen the Navy?

"If he had, he wouldn't have been a rear-gunner on that B-17," Trumpy said. "It was an ill-fated ship. But, it was part of my good fortune.

"Ours was a sports-oriented home as far back as I can remember," Bob said. "Football, basketball, baseball, track, hunting, fishing—television sets turned to ball games, a basket in the backyard. And, always there was my Dad teaching me and helping me without ever letting me realize whathe was doing. He made it all seem so natural.

"Each in its own way, shaped me into what I am today," he said. "Even Pat's pregnancy had an effect on my



Despite having proved himself, Trumpy continues to find it difficult to believe he's a successful major league athlete, though only 26 years of age.

football career. If she hadn't been pregnant—well, things might've turned out differently. But, she was pregnant when I was drafted, and I had been taught to place careful evaluation on things. Here I was leaving her in California, and where was I going?"

He answered his own question. "Nearly all the way across the country to see if I could play a boy's game and get paid for it."

Trumpy traveled across the country to the Bengals' training camp in Wilmington, Ohio. His first week in camp was extraordinary. Twice a day in the small Wilmington stadium, with maybe a thousand or so visitors looking on, he made almost no technical mistakes. He surprised even himself. Pat was on his mind—and she was 2,000 miles away, carrying his child, and probably worrying.

On the sixth day, Trumpy caught every pass thrown at him. Paul Brown, dressed in khaki pants, a T-shirt, and a peaked baseball style cap, didn't seem to notice. Brown was everywhere, head down, looking, talking, analyzing but never at Trumpy.

"At least, that's what I thought,"
Trumpy said.

Trumpy's seventh day in camp was

even better. Still no drops. Every pass thrown at him he caught—some spectacularly. That night, after the evening meal, Trumpy was talking to Paul Hornung, the Columbus sportswriter. Hornung, having watched Trumpy all week, was impressed and was doing an interview with him.

But, Trumpy's mind kept wandering back to Pat in Los Angeles. Finally, he said, "Mr. Hornung, I'm going to ask Mr. Brown tomorrow if I've made this team. My wife is pregnant and the baby is due and I intend to be with her when it's born."

Hornung told him he was daft, that Brown was not used to being pressured, and that if he wanted to make the team he'd better stick to impressing the old master on the practice field.

Trumpy recalled the meeting with Brown.

"He's a wonderful guy," Trumpy said. "Very honest. What he tells you, you believe. This was his big comeback, you know, and I found in the week that he wasn't a hard-bitten dictator like some reports had it. That's why I decided to talk to him."

Trumpy faced the coach.

Continued on page 83



ROUND-UP



BALTIMORE COLTS

The knee injury suffered by the Colts' All-Pro Bubba Smith back in late August was so bad that club officials first feared he would never play football again. Bubba himself, though, promises he will return next year with a vengeance. It's the first time the big man has really been hurt, and therefore a new experience, but Bubba is learning to live with the pain, just as so many knee cases before him have done ...

Marty Domres, the quarterback the Colts acquired to back up John Unitas, doesn't want to talk about the book for swingers he wrote when he was at San Diego. "Just let that die if you will," Marty said of his masterpiece, "Bump and Run."...

Equipment manager Mike McVean is to blame for it: he gave number one draft choice Tom Drougas, who was a religious studies major in college, the same number (74) that Billy Ray Smith wore during his years as a Colt. Smith, now a Texas stockbroker, has been called many things in the NFL, but he was never accused of religious studies...

The Colts own a pretty fair middle linebacker themselves in a guy named Mike Curtis, but members of the offensive line say they have never before encountered a piece of granite like Kansas City's pride and joy, Willie Lanier. "I've caved in some pretty good backers," said tight end Tom Mitchell, "but when I hit Lanier on a block he didn't even move. What happened to me? I fell apart."...

Colt Coach Don McCafferty has finally completely healed after an ankle infection which was more serious than most people realized at one time. McCafferty did his coaching in the early part of training camp from a golf cart...Linebacker Ray May took one look at the size of teammate Billy Newsome's hands and immediately dubbed them "Panda Paws." . . . Tight end John Mackey, who may retire after this season, says, "John Unitas has 17 touchdown passes to go to reach 300. I'd like to catch about 10 of them.'



BUFFALO BILLS

They were waiting with teeth bared to pounce on O. J. Simpson, in his final contract year with the Bills and for some ill-timed re-printing of guotes indicating his not - so - hard - to - understand dislike for Buffalo as a city, when the gifted running back signed a new, multi-year contract that would bind him to the Bills for maybe as many seasons as he will play pro football. The signing was a master stroke by both Simpson and the club. It quieted O. J.'s critics and, coming early in training camp, indirectly



Daddy, what did you do in the war against pollution?

Like it or not, we're all in this war. But as the war heats up, millions of us stay coolly uninvolved. (We have lots of alibis):

What can one person do? It's up to "them" to do something about pollution - not me.

Besides, average people don't pollute. It's the corporations, institutions and municipalities.

The fact is that companies and governments are made up of people. Employees, executives, legislators. It's people who make decisicns and do things that foul up our water, land and air.

What can one person do for the cause? Lots of things. Modest actions around the house and on the job. Like cleaning your spark plugs every 1000 miles, using detergents in the recommended amounts, supporting better waste treatment plants in your town. Yes, and throwing litter in a basket instead of in the street.

Above all, let's stop shifting the blame. People start pollution. People can stop it. When enough Americans realize this, we'll have a fighting chance in the war against pollution.



People start pollution. People can stop it.

stabilized Coach Lou Saban's long-range pro-

Shortly after Simpson's signing, defensive end Al Cowlings, a close friend of O. I.'s and the club's No. 1 draft choice two years ago, announced that he, too, was hoping to negotiate a new contract for 1973 before the 1972 season began. And before the Bills' first preseason game, the club announced all of its players had been signed to 1972 contracts. Which was unlike a year ago, as five Bills played out their options in

It became apparent early in training camp that Cowlings, stationed on the left flank last season, probably would move back to right end as Walt Patulski, the Bills' No. 1 draft choice. looked far more effective as left end than he did on the right side. What still wasn't so clear was who would man the defensive tackle spots. Fifth-year man Mike Mc-Bath, heretofore unimpressive, made the strongest and earliest claim for one of the

jobs ...

Saban's moves strengthen the tackle positions, which many felt he weakened when he peddled Jim Dunaway to Miami, met with apparent disappointment. Neither holdovers Bob Tatarek nor Julian Nunamaker was impressive as the opener neared. Nor was Greg Lens, obtained at draft-time along with defensive end Randy Marshall from Atlanta in return for a fifth-round choice. (Marshall injured a knee in the off-season and couldn't pass the physical.) And Saban's efforts to get Dave Costa from Denver failed (he was traded to San Diego instead), insiders said, because Broncos' Coach John Ralston had been getting heat for dealing linebackertight end Dave Washington to Buffalo for linebacker Al Andrews earlier.

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Greg Cook, rookie of the year in the old AFL three years ago, will miss the entire '72 season-his third straight on the sidelines since injuring shoulder...But, the blond passing sensation looks like a sure bet to launch his comeback next season... He's in Florida undergoing special exercises to rebuild atrophied muscles in his throwing arm...Tommy Casanova, the rookie free safety from Louisiana State, in-



tends to carry on a family tradition by entering medicine...Son of a prominent surgeon, Tommy plans to enter medical school in the off-season sometime next

Paul Brown on rookie linebacker Jim Le Clair: "He's the type of guy who goes unnoticed, but he makes very few errors."...LeClair is Brown's No. 3 draft pick from North Dakota...He's the guy who gave Al Beauchamp a merry time of it in preseason camp...But, Beauchamp, a six-year veteran, was unworried ... "Preseason camps are a lot easier for me now," he explains. "I know what's going on. I know what I'm supposed to do and how I'm supposed to do it."... The linebacker coach is Vince Costello, the former Ohio U., Cleveland Browns and New York Giants middle linebacker.

Ask trainer Mary Pollin and he'll tell you defensive tackle Steve Chomyzsak is the biggest eater on the squad ... A 260-pounder, Chomyzsak is a first trencherman . . . "He'll eat as much as any man alive,"
Marv says. "They make jokes about him on our club. But, the all-time eater in my book is still Ernie Ladd."...Ladd, the former Big Cat of the Kansas City Chiefs, thought nothing of putting away 12 course dinners... He's now a pro wrestler ... Thanks to his good work in camp, punter Dave Lewis is now a reserve running back...



CLEVELAND **BROWNS**

Other people seem to control the football destiny of John Demarie. Back in 1968 when John was a backup offensive tackle, John Wooten and Ross Fichtner got into a summer argument which had some racial overtones. The result was that both were traded. So Demarie was shifted to quard and became a regular at the position. A couple of weeks before the start of this 1972 season, offensive tackle Bob McKay suffered a broken bone in his right leg. Estimates were that he'd be out for six weeks or more. This meant another revamping of the offensive line and Demarie found himself back at tackle...Cleveland writers and fans have begun taking sides in the controversy about whether Bill Nelsen or Mike Phipps should be the Browns' quarterback. Both have their followers but most of the fans seem to be siding with Phipps, the third year man from Purdue University ...

Ken Brown had trouble catching the football the last couple of seasons. So offensive backfield coach John David Crow spends time after each practice just throwing Brown the football. It seems to have paid off as Ken was one of the leading receivers on the squad through the exhibition season...The Browns believe they struck gold in the free agent market when Chris Morris was signed. A Minnesota reject as a guard, Chris has been playing at offensive tackle for the Browns and doing well. He's an Indiana product...Tom Darden, first draft pick from Michigan, moved in as the strongside safety soon after coming to the Browns from the College All Stars and

seems to have the spot locked up...

Second year linebacker Charlie Hall has come on strong. It seems that this quick, rangy player from Houston very well could crack the starting lineup... Big Jerry Rush, obtained from Detroit for a draft choice, was released because he just couldn't seem to lose weight. He reported at 289 pounds and was expected to lose 30. He couldn't get below 270.



DENVER BRONCOS

How much will the loss of defensive tackle and cocaptain Dave Costa hurt what was one of best lines in NFL? That was one major unanswered question in the aftermath of Costa's tumultous trade to San Diego for a No. 3 draft choice...Costa, say some teammates, was the glue that kept the line intact and highly efficient, and it will take time to replace that kind of leadership...With Richard Jackson and Pete Duranko each coming back following knee surgery, that means threefourths of the line has been affected by change in the

Lyle Alzado stepped in and did an excellent rookie job in Duranko's place, and Paul Smith could well be Denver's next major star in the line, where he's being asked to move inside to tackle—or was until Costa's shuffle... Both Jerry Inman and Tom Domres are effective, seasoned tackles but neither has had to take on the leadership role that Costa vacates...

John Ralston, meanwhile, seemed more than pleased with the first out-of-state training camp in Bronco history...He sought heat and solitude for the first three weeks, got both at California State Polytechnic University near Pomona, Calif...One week the thermometer

stayed well over 100 during the day, sapping players to the point there was little traveling even to nearby Pomona after the evening meeting... Whether Denver goes back next year could depend on costs, which varied between \$75,000 and \$150,00 more than training at their own camp in suburban Denver as in the past...

How good will Denver's No. 1 draft choice, tight end Riley Odoms, be? After a week in camp, Ralston grinned: "I can already see the guarterbacks peeking to find him"...With the retirement of Kansas City's E. J. Holub a season ago, Denver punter Bill Van Heusen must lead the surgical league-seven knee operations and an appendectomy with two knees and the appendix setting a oneseason high in 1971...



HOUSTON OILERS

"I think this team has learned a lot." said Houston Coach Bill Peterson. "We've come together as a team and are beginning to look like a team now. We still have a long way to go but the improvement has been excellent. We have proved to ourselves that we can play good football and hang tough when the breaks go against us."...

Peterson continued, musing over the Houston-Minnesota Vikings preseason game. "This was the toughest test of the season for our offensive line. Minnesota has possibly the toughest pass rush in the game with Carl Eller, Alan Page, Gary Larsen and Jim Marshall who really come at you. They have to be the equal or even better than Dallas' front four. Fran Tarkenton gives them a new look at quarterback. He is an excellent passer and a fine scrambler who loves to run. They really haven't had that kind of attack in the past and give our defense more problems."...

Speaking of his own team, Peterson said, "We have played well defensively with so many starters out with injury. With Lynn Dickey out for the season, we want to get a look at Kelly Cochrane under fire, but as yet don't know for sure just how we will use him. We've got to get him ready to back up Dan Pastorini as soon as we can."...Pastorini, the second year pro from Santa Clara looked sharp in preseason action. He completed 52.5 percent of his passes for 606 yards and seven touchdowns with interception....

Houston has four promising rookie halfbacks in Al Johnson, Willie Rodgers, Lewis Jolley and Edgar Scott along with fullbacks Robert Holmes, Ward Walsh, Paul Magalski and Hoyle Granger, the former Oiler who was released by New Orleans and signed as a free agent.



KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Arrowhead Stadium, the Chiefs' new home in the Harry S. Truman Sports Complex, is winning acclaim as one of the nation's most beautiful football stadiums. The interior is colorful and the architectural lines sweep up to points in the four corners. The scoreboard is capable of providing instant replay... The turf in the new stadium has won generally favorable comment from the Chiefs and visiting players. Most players say the field is the softest they have played

Hank Stram, head coach of the Chiefs, has purchased an interest in the expansion franchise granted to Kansas City by the National Hockey League. Stram is one of approximately 20 investors in the team, which will begin play in 1974. Ed Thompson, who heads the group, said Stram's investment is substantial. "Hank and I have been friends for a long time," Thompson said. "I can't think of anyone I would rather be in business with. This is not a case of Hank having a token investment so we can capitalize on his name."...

Johnny Robinson, retired Chiefs' safety, was the color commentator on the club's pre-season games...Jan Stenerud, who is kicking on artificial turf at home for the first time, says his biggest problem is settling on the right kind of shoes. Because the field at Arrowhead is softer than most artificial turf installations, soft rubber cleats tend to grab. However, if Stenerud goes to hard rubber cleats he sometimes has trouble pushing off...

Professional football has come a long way in Kansas City in the last nine years. The Chiefs played their first game in Kansas City on Aug. 10, 1963, meeting Buffalo in an exhibition game. They drew 5,721. When they opened Arrowhead Stadium in an exhibition game with the Cardinals they drew 78,190.



MIAMI DOLPHINS

Jim Kiick and Larry Csonka are thankful for the national ink but weary of the labels, "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid." Says Kiick: "We've done commercials where they have us riding off into the sunset on Flagler Street and all sorts of foolishness. Some of it is sickening."...Curtis Johnson one-upped nitpicking critics recently after the reliable cornerback committed one of his rare errors in a recent game. After answering all what-happened questions patiently, Curtis got the last word. "Let me

ask you gentlemen a question," he said. "Where are you when I make a good

play?"...

Charley Leigh, who attended no college and began a gypsy's NFL career as a 1965 Pittsburgh free agent by letter from Commissioner Pete Rozelle, came to play this season. After years of bounding around the NFL, Canada and the minors, Leigh was the hottest runner in Migmi's training camp and has remained reliable on kickoff returns, punt returns, special teams and occasional relief of Kiick, Csonka and Mercury Morris in the backfield.

Joe Robbie, the Dolphins' managing partner, was recently named co-chairman of Florida Memorial College's gifts campaign. Robbie, a bug on education, has been instrumental in the development of Biscayne College where the Dolphins train and maintain their field headquarters...

Weakside linebacker Mike Kolen filled a large void in the middle during Nick Buoniconti's early absence after wrist and anal surgery. Coach Don Shula was so impressed with Kolen's performance he is convinced that 24-year-old "Captain Crunch," as Kolen was tagged at Auburn, can eventually be an able successor to the 31year-old Buoniconti. Nick shows no signs of seeking a rocking chair, however. He signed for two years in August... As a tot, guard Bob Kuechenberg came rolling out of a gunny sack on his father's shoulder chased him around a corral. Kuechenberg's dad was a rodeo clown "who saved many a cowboy's life," according to Bob.



NEW YORK JETS

All last spring the two most popular topics of conversation among Jet watchers were Joe Namath's salary demands and the tight end experiment. The Jets apparently met Namath's salary demands (\$250,000?), but their tight end experiment created even more of a problem....

At the end of last season, Weeb Ewbank decided he needed more speed from his tight end than veteran Pete Lammons had provided. Thus, the coach decided to move 6-foot-5 Richard Caster from wide receiver to tight end and then he traded Lammons to Philadelphia. So what happened? In the Jets' first exhibition game, Caster suffered a knee injury and lost valuable learning and adjusting time...

Meanwhile, at wide receiver, Caster's buddy from Jackson State, No. 1 draft choice Jerome Barkum, also lost valuable learning time by holding out until the day of the Jets' second exhibition game. That didn't help either because with Caster's switch to tight end, the Jets suddenly found themselves shorthanded at the wide spots with Don Maynard and Ed Bell the only experienced pass receivers. And unlike the talent-rich Dallas Cowboys, they didn't have a Duane Thomas to give away for a receiver of Billy Parks' ability.

Some football people believe Bell is too small (5-10, 160) to be the kind of receiver Namath should have, but the Flea bristles at such talk. "Forget about my size and judge me on what I can do on the field," Bell suggests. Despite his size, Bell comes out ahead when compared with Maynard in their blocking desire. As much as he likes Maynard's catching ability, Ewbank cringes at his lack of blocking. "Even little Eddie Bell tries," the coach says in a sort of backhanded compliment. "All we ask of our flankers is that they get in somebody's way. Maynard won't even do

As Caster's injury was a break for the Jets' other tight ends, Wayne Stewart and Gary Arthur, so were second-exhibition-game injuries to linebackers Ralph Baker and Bill Zapalac a

break for Paul Crane. The veteran reserve linebacker had just about reached the end of the line as a Jet (he had a bad year in 1971), but Ewbank had to give him a reprieve when Baker and Zapalac were hurt. Injuries weren't the Jets' only problem. Al Woodall, who was supposed to battle Bob Davis for the backup quarterback job, instead found himself cooking meals for fellow National Guardsmen at Fort Bragg, N. C., the first two weeks of August ...

Even though Davis outplayed Woodall after Namath was hurt last year, Ewbank continued to like the bigger and stronger Woodall for his potential. In fact, the coach turned down several trade offers early in training camp for the former Duke quarterback. But with the siege of injuries the Jets experienced the previous two seasons, Woodall probably was safer over a stove than he would be under the center.



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Women can talk all they want about being liberated. but Bob Windsor knows how it feels. He was saved from losing another season of his football life by two hours this year. "July 31st was the inter-conference trading deadline," the New England Patriots' tight end said. "And I didn't even know it until that day when a writer came up and told me before practice. I just didn't know what to say. I figured I was going to be back on the bench for another year ...

The trade, however, was made at 10 p.m., two hours before the deadline. The Pats sent their first choice in the 1974 draft to the San Francisco 49ers. The 49ers sent Windsor to New England. "If I'd been out there I think I really would have been hurt," the red-headed receiver said. "I think you

can sit for one year and not be hurt, but two years are too much. Now I think I can step in here and play at least five more good years..."

Windsor, 26, had been the 49ers' starting tight end for the first four of his five pro years. He had caught 49 passes in 1969, 31 in 1970. In 1971 he caught two. Ted Kwalick, first drafted in '70, had been given the job. Bob Windsor had been given the bench. "I finally went to Dick Nolan when the season ended," Windsor said. "I just told him he had been a player and I was sure he'd understand my feelings. He said he'd look for a trade. For a while it didn't look like he'd make one, but I'm happy the way it turned

The Pats had been seeking a tight end who could run deep patterns since the close of the 1971 season. Their entire offense of the future is based around Jim Plunkett and the thrown football. A tight end and two backs who can catch are important for it to work. That was the basis of the Windsor deal. It also was the basis of the trade of fullback Jim Nance, a strong runner but a bad receiver, to Philadelphia...

Jim Cheyunski is one football player who doesn't like what he reads in this magazine. Or any magazine. The Pats' middle linebacker is sick of reading about animals and glass eaters who play his position. "So Tim Rossovich eats glass and sets himself on fire, what does that prove?" Cheyunski says. "That doesn't make him a good football player and he isn't, from what I've seen. Dick Butkus is another guy. He's a good football player, but he's not the animal everyone says he is. That's just an image. There are quite a few guys who are as good as he is. Mike Curtis hires a public relations firm. It works as far as money is concerned, but it doesn't make him any better than he is...and there are a lot of guys as good as he is."

The best pick in the Pats' 1972 draft might have been their last. And he isn't even on the team. On round 17 this year the Pats picked Junior Ah You, the All-

America defensive end from Arizona State. Ah You already had signed with the Montreal Alouettes and presently is surviving very well as both a lineman and linebacker in the Canadian League. "It'll take a lot of money to get him down here," Pats' general manager Upton Bell said, "but I'll pay it gladly. When you talk about talent, you don't think about money. Not when you spend what a team does just to find football players."

The surprise of the Pats' camp was the comeback of former Yale quarterback Brian Dowling. The guarterback on that 1968 unbeaten team with Calvin Hill, Dowling had been cut by the Minnesota Vikings and had spent two years on the Pats' taxi squad. He was given a shot at the No. 2 New England job this year, management also keeping a close look on the nearest waiver wire. Dowling performed well, however, and won the job. "I think Yale hurt him," Bell said. "I don't think he ever was tested in the Ivy League. He was able to do what he always had done and still could win. Here, he had to change. He had to work on his throwing an awful lot. I think he's just reaching his potential now



OAKLAND RAIDERS

The exhibition season produced a number of injuries for the Raiders, including a tragic one to rookie running back Ray Jamieson. Tackling Los Angeles punt returner Eddie Phillips, Jamieson fractured and dislocated a neck vertebra, and only the alertness of team physician Dr. Graham Reedy, who cradled Jamieson's neck as he was carried off the field, saved his life. Doctors are optimistic that Iamieson will recover completely, although it may take

until next year ...

Defensive lineman Ben Davidson, never seriously injured before in his career. suffered a tear in his Achilles tendon while running with a fumble against Buffalo. The injury kept him from scoring his only pro touchdown because he fell in an open field, only 18 yards from the Buffalo goal. "I scored a touchdown in junior college," recalled Ben. "It was on a tackle eligible play. I intimidated the defensive back. He was right there when I caught the ball but he got out of my way ... '

Gerald Irons, shifted from outside linebacker to the middle, liked the shift but admitted it took a lot more thinking. "It's the difference between driving a fourspeed and driving an automatic transmission," he said ... Rookie defensive back Skip Thomas was the pleasant surprise of training camp. Only a No. 7 pick, Thomas was passed over by many clubs because he was supposed to be slow, but he has been fast enough to play the corner in the Raiders' bump-and-run man-to-man pass defense, the most demanding in pro football...

Another strange assessment was that of rookie defensive tackle Kelvin Korver, who was considered not tough enough in many other scouting reports. Korver's main asset in the early games was his ability to hold his ground. He had deficiencies caused by inexperience with his pass rush, but nobody blocked him out of the middle.



PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Quarterback Terry Hanratty, who has been playing a back-up to Terry Bradshaw for the last three years, isn't upset at his role at all. He shrugs off questions which bring up his role. "I'm happy with the way things are going," says Hanratty. "I don't want to get into speculation over who is No. 1 and who is No. 2. We've got a good team this year—and any controversy over who plays quarterback will only hurt it. I'm confident that Coach (Chuck) Noll will use the quarterbacks who work best with the team and I'm willing to submit to his judgment on that."...

Frank Lewis, the Steelers' No. 1 (1971) draft choice who played sparingly last year, broke into the 1972 campaign with a bang. Of the first three passes he caught, one was an 80-yard touchdown against the Giants, another a 60-yard gallop against the Falcons. "When he makes a move, everything shakes but his eyeballs," said Norm Van Brocklin, the Falcon coach, the speed-burning Steeler. The Steeler secondary, who knows Lewis better than anyone else, rates him as the toughest receiver in the league to cover. "It's impossible to cover him,' says Mel Blount. "You chase him-and hope the pass is off."

It didn't take Franco Harris long to make his presence felt in the NFL. In his ninth ball carrying attempt, the Steelers' No. 1 choice in 1972 swept wide to his right, broke out of the grasp of tacklers at the sideline and roared 77 yards for a touchdown. Said one observer after seeing the 235-pound Harris and 220-pound Steve Davis, a rookie from Delaware State, working together. "It's like having Jimmy Brown and John Henry Johnson in the same backfield."

Dave Smith is not worried about playing on a team with speed-burners Ron Shanklin and Frank Lewis. Smith insists he's faster than he looks. "I may not look like I'm as fast as those little guys," says Smith, "but I can run with them. I've got competitive speed." Steve Furness, a rookie tackle from Rhode Island State, decided to give up his bid as hammer an Olympic thrower to improve his chances as a football player. Didn't want to miss training camp.



SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

When lineman Lionel Aldrich was traded to the Chargers from Green Bay, he was given No. 87, which had been worn by Willie Davis on the Packers. "I'll take that number," said Aldrich with a grin. "I can do more for it than Willie did"...Cid Edwards, the big fullback, was given a real mouthful of a name when he was born in Selma, Ala, His parents tagged him Cleophus but as a kid growing up in Cincinnati it was shortened by the other kids to Cid ...

Nicknames? His teammates refer to wide receiver Jerry Levias as The Bunny, mainly because he darts around the field like a jack rabbit on springs. David (Deacon) Jones has turned into the team's foremost cheerleader, an inspirational kind of player. "If I had to trade for anyone to help the club," says Coach Harland Svare, "it would be the Deacon. He's my man"...

Three of the Charger coaches were once teammates. They are Coach Svare, a linebacker; Walt Yowarsky, a defensive tackle, and Bob Schnelker, an offensive end—and they played together on the old, title-winning New York Giants of the late 1950s... Don't put a camera in front of linebacker Ed Philpott unless you give him time to put on a hairning.

time to put on a hairpiece... And if you want financial advice, the man to see is tackle Ernie Wright, who spends his off-season working as an officer in a San Diego finance pany...Stu Nahan, who is sports director of the ABC-TV affiliate in Los Angeles, is back as play-by-play announcer of the Charger games on KDEO in San Diego. Nathan handles the calls on offense with Ralph Lawler announcing the defense.

PLAYER REPS

ciation. "Some of the guys, qualified guys, don't want the job because of the hassles they have to go through and the fact that there's a strong possibility they might be traded."

"The players," adds Lurtsema, a defensive lineman, "definitely feel there's a move among the owners against player reps."

Garvey, an outspoken young attorney who riles many NFL club owners any time he opens his mouth, even if it's just to yawn, harbors a similar feeling. In too many cases, player reps have been benched, traded or released in circumstances that suggest the action was triggered not by ability but by labor considerations, Garvey feels. He knows, though, that it's ex-

John Mackey, president of the Players Association and also the greatest tight end in football, spent most of last season on the Baltimore bench. Bob Lurtsema, the Giants' player rep, went on waivers after doing a study showing owner Wellington Mara had no rapport with his players. The 49ers traded player reps Howard Mudd, Kermit Alexander, and Clark Miller all within a year. The Bears rid themselves of player reps' Bennie McRae and Wayne Mass. The Patriots unloaded their player rep Houston Antwine in the off season. Whether it's all coincidental or not, the Players Association intends to find out and take action.

tremely difficult to place proof behind that feeling.

Take, for example, one of the most recent cases involving a player rep, Houston Antwine, whom the New England Patriots traded to Philadelphia in the off-season.

"As usual," Garvey says, "it's dif-

ficult to say whether there's any connection between his being the player rep and his being traded. It seems odd that he gets traded after playing for the Patriots for 11 years, but it's hard to prove it was because he was a player rep. So I can't really comment one way or another... except that it's odd."

Garvey finds the Mackey and Lurtsema situations odd, too.

"It just seems strange that the guy who's voted the greatest tight end in the history of the NFL somehow wasn't good enough to make the Colts' first team," the suspicious official says. "It's a sensitive situation in that I don't want to say that Tom Mitchell isn't a good tight end. Maybe he is. I have nothing against Tom Mitchell. I hope he does well. But John Mackey was the best.

"I'm sure as hell not an expert in football. I can't tell by looking at game films whether John Mackey is the same John Mackey or not. But it's awful strange the way he's been treated." Commenting on that treatment, Mackey says:

"I hurt my elbow in the third game and didn't start after that. All I can say is the year before I played when I couldn't walk (he was recovering from knee surgery in 1970) and I started every game. Last year I hurt my elbow a little bit and I found myself on the bench for the rest of the year. It was sort of like they said, Oh, you sprained your little toe and you can't run now."

"If the team feels I should be on the bench because I'm president of the Players Association, that's their problem. I'm going to give 150 per cent. I never give up on the field. That's the way I play, and anyone who had a chance to see the game films, I think, could see that maybe I should have been playing and not riding the bench."

Before Don Klosterman left Baltimore for Los Angeles with owner Carroll Rosenbloom, he discussed the Mackey situation from the Colts' point of view.

"The coaches would never make a



Bob Lurtsema, defensive lineman: "The players definitely feel there's a move among the owners against player reps."

decision based on his association with the Players Association," commented Klosterman, then the Baltimore general manager. "The coaches look at it strictly on an objective basis—who's the best football player, who's doing the best job for us—and that's it.

"It happens many times that one player gets hurt and another comes in and does a real good job. It's difficult to take that player who has replaced him and sit him on the bench. Tom Mitchell is a fine all-around football player. When we talked to people about trades, 80 to 90 per cent of the time they mentioned Mitchell, so that shows how much respect he has around the league. He played awfully well last year and it would've been hard to put him back on the bench.

"I admire John for what he tries to give to his job as president of the association. There's never been any animosity between John and anyone with the Colts."

The Lurtsema case was somewhat different from the Mackey affair in that the defensive lineman wasn't as established as the tight end. It was, however, nonetheless controversial because of the way in which Lurtsema was released. The Giants let him go last Nov. 9, midway through their disastrous season.

"As soon as he's cut," Garvey says, "everyone, including the kept press, says, 'Yep, Lurtsema lost a step.' Well, did he? I don't know, but I find it a strange coincidence that he's the player rep, he was starting for four years and all of a sudden he's lost a step. How fast do you lose a step?"

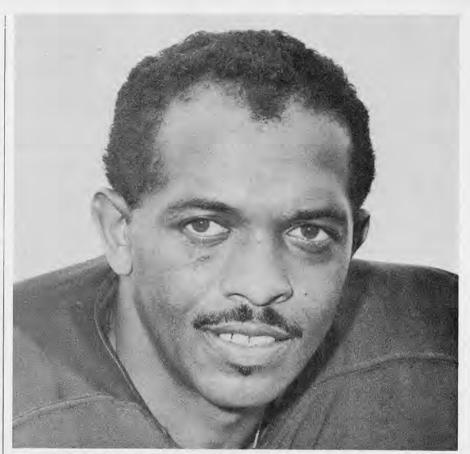
Lurtsema doesn't think he lost a step, but he also declines to say that he was cut because he was the player rep.

"I don't know whether it was the association or not," says the 6-foot-6, 250 pounder who later signed with the Minnesota Vikings as a free agent. "You have to realize that the way the Giants are run, if you say anything about them, if you criticize the organization at all, you're in trouble.

"I think my being the player rep was a catalyst, but I think it was more from being a holdout and going against the Giant way. That's how I got into most of my trouble—from being an agitator. Being player rep was part of that."

Lurtsema recalls the day he was benched, after having started the first five games of 1971.

"It was after the Dallas game and Jim Katcavage (an assistant coach) told me," Lurtsema relates. "I said to him,



Bennie McRae, player rep for the Chicago Bears, was traded to the New York Giants following a contract dispute.

'I didn't play that bad.' And he said, 'No, you didn't, but they want you benched.' I don't know if it was the front office or who it was. He didn't specify who it was. He just said 'they.' I mean, he has to watch himself, too."

Then there was the rapport report that Lurtsema made to Mara, which was his last act as the Giants' player rep. The Giant owner insists the timing of the report and the release was a bad coincidence, and Lurtsema agrees that such a coincidence was possible.

"It was a source of annoyance to me," Mara says, referring to the timing. "I was a little unhappy over the fact that it (the release) was done at that time. I mean, here I ask a fellow to do something for me and he did it and came back with what I thought was a very honest and constructive report and then he's let go. It couldn't have been timed worse.

"But I wasn't about to interfere with what the coaches did. The coaches just didn't think he was doing a satisfactory job. And since all 25 clubs waived on him twice during the year (once before the regular season began), I guess we weren't the only ones that thought that.

"I think Bob was a very good player rep. We certainly have no predilec-

tion to be against a guy because he's the player rep."

Furthermore, Mara doesn't believe any NFL clubs would treat player reps in devious ways.

"First of all," he says, "I don't think teams release good football players just because they're player representatives. Secondly, even if a club is stupid enough to let a player go because he is a player rep, I don't think the other 25 would be stupid enough not to pick him up."

But Garvey and the Players Association believe there have been too many instances of player reps having their statuses abruptly changed for them to accept Mara's argument. Garvey doesn't issue a blanket condemnation of NFL club owners. For example, he says the association has a good working relationship with many of the teams from the old American League. But there are other clubs, he contends, that are notorious in the "coincidental" cutting or trading of player reps.

Two of the teams that are most disruptive to the association, Garvey feels, are the San Francisco 49ers and the Chicago Bears. In the 49ers' case, they traded three player reps—Howard Mudd, Clark Miller and Ker-

mit Alexander—all within a year, from May, 1969, to January, 1970. The Bears sent Bennie McRae and Wayne Mass on their way last year. Both clubs, of course, have explanations by which they justify their actions.

In trading Mudd to Chicago, explains Lou Spadia, president of the 49ers, "We had an excess of offensive linemen and a lack of defensive backs. We traded Mudd for Rosey Taylor, who immediately improved our defense. I think Howard was a good player rep. He's a good friend of mine."

Alexander went to Los Angeles for Bruce Gossett, a placekicker who was sorely needed by the 49ers, according to Spadia.

"Our field goal kicking record was absolutely abominable," he recalls. "We lost one game, to Green Bay, by three or four points after we missed three field goals from inside the 19-yard line. As for Clark Miller, he simply was an inferior football player and the events that went on after we traded him proved it. Miller was waived by three clubs within two years after being with us."

Of the two Bears in question, McRae was traded to the Giants following a contract dispute and Mass was waived and eventually signed by Miami as a free agent.

"When you end up trading McRae and Bob Hyland for the No. 3 man in the country (Lionel Antoine in the draft), which is the way it turned out, you can't complain," says George Halas Jr., president of the Bears. "I'd like to make a trade like that day in and day out. That's not looking negatively at the abilities of McRae and Hyland, but we were dealing away positions that we had depth at.

"The decision to waive Mass was a coaching decision. Our vice president who deals with players, Ed McCaskey, was instrumental in helping Wayne get the opportunity with the Dolphins."

Garvey doesn't see the Bear situations as clear cut as Halas does.

"Mass started 14 games in 1970 for the Bears," the players' official says, "but last year he had essentially confronted the owner and the coaches with all sorts of problems he saw on the team. He wasn't allowed to practice for the last couple of weeks in the pre-season and then he was cut. McRae was the player rep before Mass and he got all sorts of harassment and finally they just didn't come close on a contract and he was

traded."

Garvey cites other cases as well in which player reps were traded, including Rey Jefferson by Pittsburgh and Olen Underwood by Houston, two players who were involved in negotiations during the player strike in 1970.

No matter how sincerely and how plausibly teams explain their moves involving player reps, the Players Association isn't convinced the owners are pulling off one happy coincidence after another. The players aren't satisfied that all the maneuvers are devoid of some diabolical ulterior motive. They feel strongly that something is wrong and they want to do something about it.

"We will have to do whatever is necessary, including taking legal action, to help protect our player representatives from the harassment they go through at the club level," Mackey says.

There are two directions in which the association could travel in an effort to gain some type of protection for the player reps. They can negotiate or they can, in effect, sue.

Discussing the peaceful means first, Garvey has toyed with an idea called "super seniority," but he's not too sure it could work. Under the plan, the person who is the player rep couldn't be traded during the year.

"But what might that do to a team?" Garvey asks of his idea. "For instance, if one of the incentives for being player rep is that you can't be traded, what does that do to the election process and what does it do to our internal operations? You might have someone who plays for New York or San Francisco or Miami running for player rep just to make sure he doesn't get traded.

"It's something we haven't given sufficient thought to, but it's a thought that's come up because as we get closer to collective bargaining (the current contract expires at the end of the 1973 season), we're becoming very, very concerned about what would happen if the owners decide to really disrupt the organization through cuts and trades."

Barring the formulation of a negotiated plan, the association is left with filing unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board. That avenue also has roadblocks, two major roadblocks—finding a player who would go along with the idea and presenting concrete evidence that a player was cut because

he was a player rep.

Garvey tried to get Lurtsema to go the NLRB route, but he declined.

"Suddenly he was with Minnesota so why rock the boat?" the executive director says understandingly. "That's what most of the players feel. If they have some years left, they don't want to go out of their way to make it difficult for themselves."

The idea of an NLRB suit would be to seek back pay. "If a club is found guilty of an unfair labor practice charge for interfering with the union, it would have to pay the player back pay," Garvey explains. "Now all of a sudden you'd have some of the owners saying, 'Now wait a minute. I'd like to cut the guy because I don't like him, but on the other hand, I don't want to end up paying \$30,000 after the board orders me to pay."

Some enlightened owners can see that there might be a need for providing the player reps with some sort of protection, but that doesn't mean they'll ever arrive at an agreement with the association.

"We raise the issue of player reps from time to time when we meet with the owners or the commissioner," Garvey says. "The answer always is you have to examine each case individually and that if you do, you'll see that the trade or the cut was justified. They say you can't look at it in terms of what's happening to the reps as a whole."

What chance would a player have of winning a suit before the NLRB?

"I think if we had a reasonable man who isn't tied to either side, we could show him a pattern of conduct with the various clubs that would sort of frame the issue," Garvey says. In other words, he would see that this happens with some regularity. We could show circumstances involving a particular player that would lead a disinterested party to believe the player was cut because he was a player rep. We have trouble doing that with the commissioner, but I think if we had a disinterested party we could do it."

In Garvey's way of thinking, it's imperative that the association take some form of action.

"It is clear," he asserts, "that there is an atmosphere in the league of black-balling, and a player who becomes a player rep realizes he's running the risk of getting cut or traded just because he's standing up for what he believes in. It's that atmosphere that's hard to deal with and which we must eliminate."

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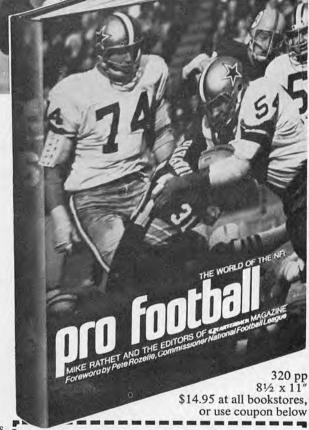
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Bob Babich

the tackle. With all that weight, and the one leg stationary, something had to give and it did." Medically, it was like this-his anterior curclate ligament was torn off the femur, or thigh bone, and both parts of the medial collateral ligament were severed. For nearly four hours, Dr. E. Paul Woodward, the San Diego team physician, operated and then the healing process began-both of body and of mind. Physically and emotionally, it was a crushing blow.

"I knew what I had to do and I did it," says Babich, simply. By that he means that he lifted weights diligently under the tutelage of the shaven-head man known as Maylen, who serves as the Chargers' strength coach. He jogged and ran on the beaches in San Diego. During the 1969 season, Babich attended all the team meetings, saw all the films and at each game he stood alongside the coaches, learning and absorbing. "It was a depressing way," he says, "to spend your first year with the pros."

In his second year, Babich returned with a vengeance, notching up 173 tackles, the most by any Charger, 82 of them unassisted-11 of them coming in a game against Oakland. In 1971, he set a Charger record with an average of 14 tackles a game; he had three fumble recoveries and three times he sacked the opposing quarterback. In a singularly weak defense, Babich was the prime muscle, a powerhouse who renewed his hold on the admiration of Charger fans and won the respect of the opposition. But this is a Charger team that had been rooted in third place in its division since 1966. Granted, any division that also includes the Kansas City Chiefs and the Oakland Raiders must be ranked among the toughest in football. Still, the Chargers haven't been winners. And so Bob Babich, despite his growing stature, has yet to receive the acclaim that people in the game insist should be his. They talk about his range and his mobility and the crashing dedication that goes into a Babich tackle. They talk about his speed. They talk about his sure instincts. They mention him in the same breath with the big names at his position, the Butkuses, the Curtises, the Laniers.

Soft-spoken, without a hint of the showboat, Babich also rates himself in

that select company. "The best?" he says. "No question about it-Dick Butkus is the best linebacker in football today. He plays like a wild man, a man possessed. His goal was always to be the best and he made it and now he's got the recognition he deserves. Butkus is in a class by himself. Next I put Willie Lanier for his range and his fantastic speed."

"And then Mike Curtis?" a fellow suggested.

Babich shook his head. He smiled. "No," Bob said. "I'm as good as Mike Curtis. Some people obviously don't agree but I stick to it. If I didn't think I was on a par with Curtis I wouldn't say. so."

He paused. "And in two years," Babich said in his quiet way, "I could be the best middle linebacker in professional football. One thing's holding me back and that's pass defense. I'm still learning how to read a pass defense."

In the pros, Babich has seen a lot of passing, which he didn't see much at all in his days at Miami University of Ohio. "In college, we played mainly against the Woody Hayes types of offense-three yards and a cloud of dust. We didn't play very many passing teams."

Asked to rate the runners in the National Football League, Babich mentions Jim Nance first. "The thing about Nance," he says, "is that he's so strong it takes more than one guy to do the job. Leroy Kelly and Floyd Little are tough to tackle because of the way they can change their speed. They both have incredible balance. And there's MacArthur Lane and Cid Edwards, two guys who punish you with sheer brute power to go with their finesse."

"People talk about the killer instinct -do you have it, Bob?"

Babich let the question settle in his mind and then he shook his head. "I don't think so," he said, finally. "I really don't know if I have any real, down-deep killer instincts. I do enjoy the hitting in a game but I truly-I mean this very sincerely-don't ever want to hurt anyone. The trick of it, the whole point of being a good linebacker is to know how to hit. You just grab a runner and he might push through for an extra yard or two. But that's no good-if it's third down and one, you've got to stop him right

In his second year, Babich returned with a vengeance after missing almost all of his rookie year with injuries. He notched up 173 tackles, the most by any Charger, of which 82 were unassisted.



there cold, in his tracks.

"I remember back in high school, we were taught the fundamentals of tackling—we were supposed to tackle low. Then in college they taught us to go higher and put our helmet into play. You can't use the helmet for 'spearing' but if you put your face in the runner's chest, right in the numbers, maybe your helmet will accidentally touch the ball and it just might jar it loose.

"Most runners are strongest in their legs," Babich went on. "In other words, his legs are stronger than a defender's arms so he can break on through a leg tackle. Where the runner usually isn't as strong as a linebacker is in the upper body. My own feeling, as I look at the films, is that I've been tackling a bit too high, around the shoulders. I'm trying now to get lower, to explode out into the ballcarrier and straighten him up."

Babich grinned. "It's a little something," he said, "that Dick Butkus does pretty well."

Babich admires Butkus in another regard. "Butkus creates an air of leadership," he says, "just by being the best there is at his position. That's my feeling about what leadership should be. A poor player can never be a good leader. Your leadership comes out in the way you play. You don't become a leader on defense by being rah-rah."

Bob Babich never was much of a rah-rah type, even back as a kid athlete growing up in Campbell, Ohio, a town of some 14,000 population that also spawned Frankie Sinkwich, the old University of Georgia All-American from another era. The only son of Mary and Frank Babich, of Slovak-Hungarian descent, Bob comes from a steel-working family in a steelworking town.

"Ninety per cent of the people in



The Chargers have been rooted in third place in their division since 1966, a reason why many people feel Babich has yet to receive the acclaim that should be his.

Campbell work in the mills," Babich says. "Every three or four years, they have a strike and the town shuts down."

Babich pere works as a loader, which means that he directs the loading of steel pipes into the cars for shipping. "It's not much fun being a loader," says Bob, "especially when you're working in an Ohio winter and your feet are in the mud and it's 10 below. My grandfather-both of my grandfathers-worked in the steel mills. But when it came to me, I just couldn't see it. My father would never even take me to the mills for fear I'd see something I'd like. My parents were always telling me to go to school, forget about the mills. It's hard, dirty, dangerous work. Even though nobody starves, nobody ever earns more than \$9,000 a year. I knew that even if I taught school, which was my goal for a long time, I'd be happier."

At Campbell High School, Babich was assigned to middle guard and later moved to linebacker. By the end of his junior year, he began to stretch out and pile on some weight. College scouts began to seek him out. In all, 35 scholarship offers came his way. "I had things pretty well figured out," Babich says. "I didn't want to go to school at Notre Dame or Ohio State where I might get lost in the shuffle and even if I made the team I might not get to play three years. Seven of the Big Ten schools made offers. I knew I wanted to stay in Ohio. And when I met Coach Bo Schembeckler I knew that Miami University was the place for me. Coach said to all of us, 'First get an education, then play football.' We had a special study time, from 7 to 9 at night and we really had to buckle down with the books. I don't regret it at all."

In his college career, Babich started 30 consecutive games and, in his senior year, his thoughts turned to the pros. He was named to a few all-America teams-teams chosen by Playboy, Time and Sporting News, all on the basis of a professional future. "Lots of good players never make an All-America," Babich says. "The reason is publicity or lack of it. Some of the really top players simply don't get the ink they deserve. Nationally, I didn't do all that well in the papers but on a regional basis I got my share, thanks to Dick Young, the athletic publicity director at Miami."

Babich played in a few bowl games



Babich: "I'm as good as Mike Curtis. Some people obviously don't agree but I stick to it. If I didn't think I was on a par with Curtis I wouldn't say so."

—the Senior Bowl, the North-South, the Coaches' All-America. Drafted in the first round by the Chargers, in August of '69 he emerged as the top defensive player in the College All-Star game in Chicago, showing very little respect for the champion New York Jets led by Joe Namath. Babich, in fact, was a bulwark in the middle of a goal-line stand that stopped the Jets four times from within the three-yard line. The Jets won, 26 to 24, but the New Yorkers had good reason to remember Babich.

After that came training camp with the Chargers and then, on that fateful summer's night in Cleveland, the tackle that erased his rookie year. During that first off-season, Babich worked for the city of San Diego as a trainee in the real estate appraising office. His first week on the job found him in La Jolla, a posh, Riviera-like section of San Diego with its own built-in La Dolce Vita, Southern California style. The first house he was sent out to appraise was a mansion worth a mere \$100,000. Babich was stunned by its grandeur.

"What a house!" he says, voice still touched with awe. "I'd never seen a house like that before. They sure don't have houses like that in Campbell. It had an indoor swimming pool, modernistic lighting, the works. I mean, it was a beautiful layout. I thought to myself—well, maybe someday I'll live in one like it."

Bob Babich just might make it. Last winter, he entered a new career as an

automobile salesman with Westcott Motors in National City, a suburb to the south of San Diego. "That Babich!" says Gary Polakoff, general manager of the dealership, with admiration. "He came right in here and sold six new cars the first week. He's amazing. What I like about Bob is the fact that he's so well disciplined. He does things by the numbers, where another salesman might take short cuts. And he knows how to take suggestions. I've read about Babich being coachable. As his off-season coach, so to speak, I found out how coachable he really is."

"I enjoyed selling cars," Babich says. "The one thing I never told customers was that I was a football player, a Charger. If they recognized me, fine. But I'd never initiate it. I didn't do this out of some kind of modesty but out of good sense. I didn't want to use football. I didn't want to go and shake hands and say, 'Hi, I'm Bob Babich of the San Diego Chargers.' That's the easy way but it hinders growth. I wanted to find out if I could sell cars on my own. Say I'm three years out of football and I introduce myself to a customer with: 'I'm Bob Babich-I used to play for the Chargers.' What good would that

Babich also appeared in television commercials for the auto agency. "I made decent money at it," he says, "but I don't think I was very good at facing the camera."

This past off-season found Babich in

still another activity, one initiated by the Chargers. Babich and Charger defensive back Bobby Howard were the key figures in the Chargers' intensive campaign against drug abuse. One night a week, for six weeks, high school athletes were invited to the club's dressing room in the San Diego Stadium where Babich, Howard and several other teammates would meet with them in informal rap sessions.

"At first, the kids were a bit shy," Babich says. "If we brought up the subject of drugs, they'd try to talk about something else. Then they'd loosen up and we'd just talk football and then one of the kids would say, 'Look, I got a friend on our team. He takes pills and he plays real great on Saturday. What do I tell him?' We'd lay it on the line for him. We'd say that his 'friend' was hurting himself, that he might not show it now but later he would have to feel the results. We told the kids how dangerous drugs really are, how they can destroy the future because nobody knows for sure what drugs do to the body.

"We didn't lecture and we didn't preach. We just tried to make the kids aware and to do that we had to do some research into the matter ourselves. Not that we became 'authorities'—I don't think anybody, even the people in the Narcotics Bureau, is an authority. But we did become informed of a situation that's getting worse every year. None of the kids we saw would come out and admit it, exactly, but I think we may have gotten through to them. And they knew we cared."

Babich was one of the players who were invited to the White House where President Nixon personally thanked him for his involvement in the National Football League's drug abuse program.

Ask Babich about drugs, mainly pep pills, among the pros and he says: "Maybe the marginal players feel they need them but pep pills are actually a hindrance to your thinking, not a help. They muddle you up when you should have a clear head. Another thing—the added weight that some of us have to carry is enough of a strain on the heart without throwing in some form of drugs. If I weren't a ballplayer, I wouldn't weigh any 230 pounds. More likely, I'd be about 210. You need all the strength you can get so that the extra weight isn't a strain.

"To be the best linebacker in pro football," said Bob Babich, "you need to have everything going for you."

COMING IN

The Option Clause: Is it Really Fair? Having played out their option, too many NFL players will sit out the 1972-73 season. Although most should be in the starting line-ups in more than half of the NFL clubs their services go unwanted. What's the reason? Is the present option clause fair? Should there be one? PRO QUARTERBACK takes an indepth look at an issue which threatens to blow the lid off the relationship between the Players Association and the league owners.

Larry Csonka: Football's
Punishing Runner—Once
considered too slow to make
it in the NFL, Larry Csonka of
the Miami Dolphins ran over
1000 yards last year. PRO
QUARTERBACK tells why
Csonka has made Miami's
running game, as well as
passing attack, so effective.

Pro Quarterback Playback: In an effort to combat the growing strength of the Players Association, the team owners recently named John Thompson executive director of the NFL Management Council. PRO QUARTERBACK talks with Thompson about the new council and how its primary function is to combat the evergrowing demands of the Players Association.

Jack Pardee: Leader of the Over-the-Hill Gang. One key reason why the Washington Redskins defense is one of the best is Jack Pardee. He was considered "over the hill" at Los Angeles, but George Allen immediately went after him. PRO QUARTERBACK relates how Allen talked Pardee out of retirement to begin a new career with Washington.

Bob Tucker: Unheralded Hero
—Tight end of the New York
Giants, Bob Tucker, is the
star nobody knows. Last year
he led the NFL in pass receiving and finally started to
receive the recognition he
deserved. PRO QUARTERBACK
tells how this obscure tight
end from Bloomsburg State
became one of the established
stars of the NFL.

Master Mind of the Miami
Dolphins—Don Shula, in the
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the top passing and receiving
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Bob Griese and Paul Warfield.

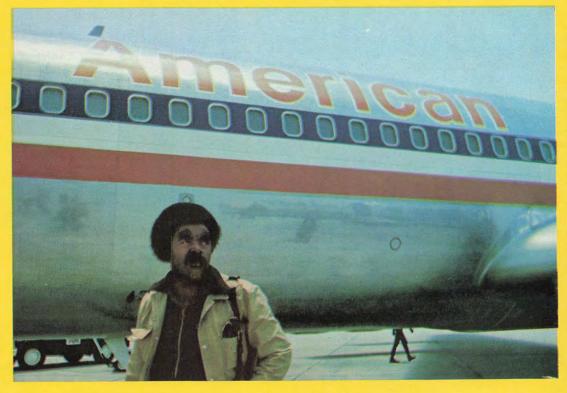


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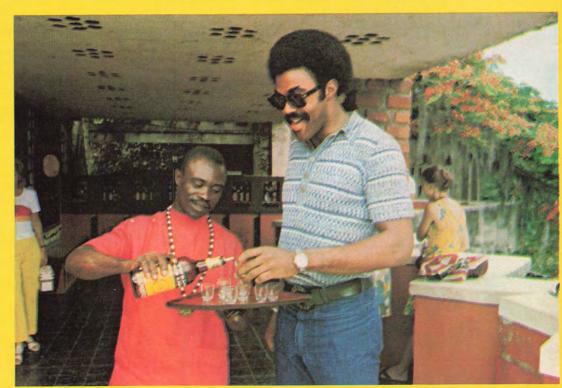


HAITIAN HOLIDAY

Photos by Bill Crespinel



Rich Caster recently enjoyed an action-packed five day trip to Haiti. He visited coral reefs, toured a rum distillery, swam at Ibo Beach and dined with astronaut Gordon Cooper in addition to haggling for bargains and watching the cockfights.





Andrew Saba, owner of The Red Carpet, shows Rich a painting.

Rich chats with Albert H. Silvera, a Haitian hotel owner.



■ Richard Caster, the New York Jets' second-year tight end jetted down to Haiti recently for a five day vacation. Haiti, one of the most unusual and most exotic of the Caribbean countries, shares an island with the Dominican Republic. A non-stop American Airlines' jet landed Rich in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, some four hours after departing New York.

Caster stayed in the Villa Creole, an elegant, plush hotel with a commanding view of the Caribbean and towering mountains as a scenic backdrop. The hotel's dining room served a variety of French, American and Creole food in addition to exotic Haitian dishes, much to Richie's liking.

Rich's visit was heightened considerably by the able assistance and recommendations of Theo Duval, the executive assistant of the Haitian tourist board. And courtesy of the government, Rich was provided with a car and driver for his sightseeing expeditions around the island.

One day Rich tripped to Sand Cay, an "underwater Fantasia" which is a coral reef located out in the harbor of Port-au-Prince. He fed fish from his hand while gliding over the reef wearing a snorkel mask.

Another interesting side trip was to



Caster and his friends watch a cockfight, a popular "sport" in Haiti.



Andre Theard, Directeur General of Tourisme, gives Rich a colorful souvenir book about Haiti.



Stu Newman, a public relations man for Haiti shows Rich a view of Port-au-Prince from a mountaintop.



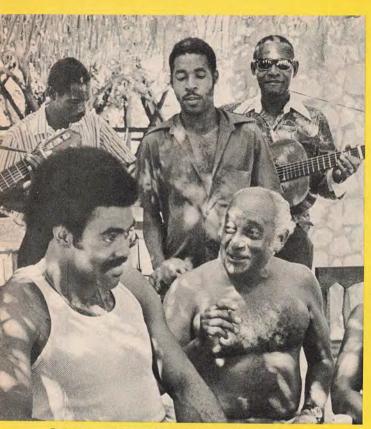
Rich surveys the market place before getting down to serious bargaining.



Yves Doxy, who drove Rich all over Haiti, points out a scenic view.



Theo Duval, Executive Assistant to Tourisme, helped Caster plan his itinerary.



Rich chats with Robert Baussan over lunch at Ibo Beach.

the Jane Barbancourt distillery. Founded in 1765, the company produces 17 different flavored rums. Distilled from sugar cane, fruit and aromatic plants, the rums are perfect appetizers or after dinner drinks. Rich concluded his tour by sampling some of the more unusual rums.

A dinner and evening at the El Rancho Hotel with astronaut Gordon Cooper was arranged by Stu Newman, a public relations agent for Haiti in Florida.

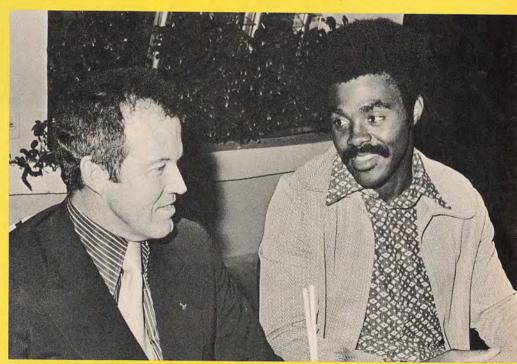
Sightseeing and strolling along Portau-Prince's main street, President Truman Avenue, was entertaining as was bargaining with the vendors and merchants lining the streets. At the Red Carpet, Rich picked up some unusual wooden statuettes.

Ibo Beach was yet another stop where Rich enjoyed the swimming and some of the delicious summer drinks for which Haiti is famous. The beach is accessible only by boat, a short five minutes away from the mainland. Robert Baussan, the manager and owner of the beach, made Rich's visit most enjoyable.

Five days passed too quickly Rich discovered, particularly when they were so jam-packed and busy with side trips and sightseeing. Too soon it seemed, it was time to fly back to New York and training camp with the New York Jets.



Gaston Baussan accompanies Rich to Sand Cay for a view of the coral reafs



Astronaut Gordon Cooper joined Rich for dinner one night.

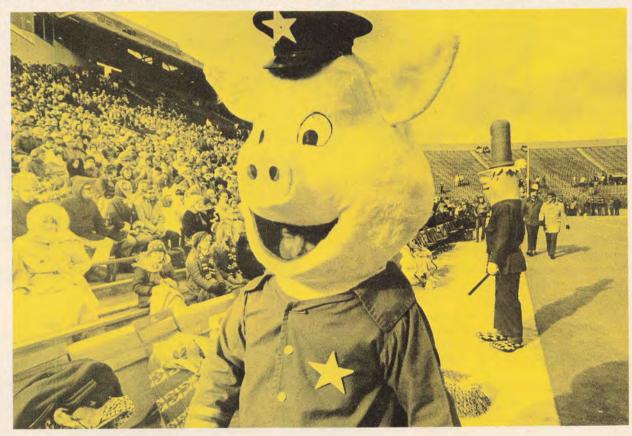
A TOUCHDOWN FOR ST. JUDE

The Third Annual Bull Game, matching the "Pigs" against the "Freaks" in Lansing, Michigan will be played this month with the proceeds benefitting St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

The best way to air hostilities, settle differences and open lines of communication between traditionally clashing elements, the police and long hairs, is, believe it or not, on the football field. The "freaks" and the "pigs" battle it out over traditional football

rules but it doesn't matter who wins because the real winner is St. Judes. Early this month the Third Annual Ball game was held in Lansing, Michigan with all proceeds from the game going to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. to aid research and treatment efforts for the young victims of leukemia.

The idea of the game first originated with Chuck Rose, a restauranteur, in the summer of 1970 following a clash between Michigan State students and the police after the police





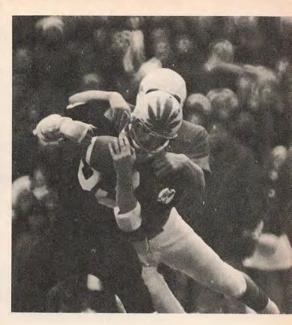
were ordered to clear the long hairs off an area high school's football field. Rose organized a group of "freaks" who challenged the local police to "round up a team of Fuzz; then we'll see who pushes who off the field under game rules." That first game attracted a standing room only crowd of 8,000 fans.

Last year the rivalry resumed and all proceeds from the game were donated to St. Jude's, thanks to police sergeant Don Christy, who was interested in the hospital. Michigan State donated the university's Spartan Stadium and the crowd swelled to 25,000 people who watched the Freaks squeak by the Pigs, 12-7.

Rose, organizer of Freak Sports Enterprises, Inc., says his team is "just a













bunch of guys who want to do something to show that long hair or beards has nothing to do with good citizenship."

The Freaks are composed mainly of MSU students and area youth. The only eligibility rule is that the players can not have played college or semi-pro football. An original squad of 100 enthusiasts had to be pared down to 44 players.

The Pigs boast several over-30 players as well as some ex-high school and college stars on their squad of state, city and campus policemen. One sergeant pointed out that the game was a natural attraction for students.

"It is the one time that they can come out and yell at the fuzz and be encouraged to do so," he said.



Legend

The flying career of the fabulous World War I Ace, Manfred Von Richthofen, portrayed in a series of four thrilling air combat prints. J. B. Deneen, noted aviation illustrator, recaptures the aerial adventures of the "Red Baron" with detail and authenticity in these superbly produced color reproductions.

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PLATE I Richthofen's first official victory PLATE II Richthofen wins the "Blue Max" PLATE III The Red Baron's 80th victory

PLATE IV Richthofen's last flight

PLATE V (Duotone) Portrait of Richthofen

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Bob Trumpy

"Mr. Brown," Trumpy began, "I hope you understand that I'm not being pushy. But, my wife, Patricia, is going to have our first child soon and I can't get her out of my mind. I've got to be with her, and as you know, she's in Los Angeles. I know I've only been here a week, but, what I'd like to know is, is my child going to be born in Los Angeles or here in Cincinnati?"

Brown, sitting behind his desk in his office, smiled and leaned back. He stared at the ceiling, then said quietly, "Why don't you bring her here?"

"There's just one more thing, Coach," Trumpy said. "I signed for \$15,000 and a \$1,500 bonus plus another \$1,000 if I made the team. Could I please have the \$1,000 to bring her here?"

"You'll have the check this afternoon," Brown said.

"This," Trumpy said, "is an example of the relationship I've had with Coach Brown. It's just been great.

"I'd been a typical middle class kid," he said. "Took everything for granted—the nice house in Springfield near the golf course, the basket in the backyard, the clothes, the refrigerators filled with food and soft drinks, the television sets, the money handouts.

"But, instead of understanding my father's desire to make things easy for me so I could excel in athletics and my studies—I took all these things as being due me. My father bugged me. I couldn't understand why he wouldn't let me take the car out at night anytime I wanted to. Instead of appreciating all that I had, I'd get mad over what I couldn't have.

"At night we'd play softball," he said recalling his childhood "or go down to that muddy, cruddy old river, throw off our clothes, and dive in it. For three solid months I worked six days a week outdoors. I wore no shoes. I took no haircuts. I wore no dressup clothes."

Trumpy enjoyed a three-sport career at Springfield High. He won All-American scholastic recognition as an end, was a high scoring forward in basketball, and a broad jumper (23-41/4) and high jumper (6-41/4) in track.

He was good enough in all three to attract college bird dogs who, to their dismay and confusion, found themselves bumping into each other.

But, football, under the prodding of Robert Trumpy, Sr., by now a high school principal turned investment counsellor, won out. Bob enrolled at Illinois under Pete Elliott, stayed in Champagne-Urbana for two years and then, under the demoralization left by the notorious slush-fund scandal, he dropped out.

"I wanted some time to think," he said.

The Du Page, Ill., State Boys School, a refuge for boys gone wrong, looked like the place. Bob got a job there as a counselor.

"My first night on duty I'm checking beds," he said. "I noticed this little black kid lying in his, wagging his head back and forth. Thought nothing about it until I made my second round a couple of hours later. The kid is still wagging his head, sound asleep. I decided to check him out."

"I learned he came from a broken home. His mother was a prostitute. His old man a drunk. Having strange men in the house terrified the kid. The thought of the old man showing up and beating up his mother or smacking him around was worse. So, to keep from going home after school, he'd hide in his school locker until the building was empty. He didn't want to fall asleep when he was inside the locker so he'd wag his head to and fro.

"That was my first experience with ghetto life," he said.

Du Page depressed Trumpy. So, he moved on to the other jobs—one with a sod farmer, another as a clothing salesman. Then, he entered Glendale, Cal., Junior College to make up some studies before transferring to Utah.

He was a good end under Mike Glidings there, averaging 17.7 yards a catch in 1966. While he drew some interest, nothing developed after he graduated except that the former Patricia Lynn Feith was now his wife. But, at least he had a degree in physical education, with a minor in finance plus an associate degree in arts.

But, before he graduated another one of those coincidences occurred.

"We were in Houston to play in the Astrodome," Bob said. "It was a Saturday night game and we were going to lay over and watch the Oilers and the Chargers play on Sunday.

"Well, I had a real good game. Caught everything thrown at me—forget now how many, maybe five or six, and scored, too. Al LoCasale, still with the Chargers, came out to watch the game."

"I spotted him right away," said Al.

"The name Trumpy isn't the kind you forget. I matched him up—Trumpy, the kid on the beach in Florida. Only now he was bigger, faster, better and he blocked as well as he caught."

Now, LoCasale had a book on Bob Trumpy. But, when he got around to using it, he would use it for the infant Bengals not the Chargers.

"You have to remember that I'd never heard of Al LoCasale," said Trumpy. "Not until the day I met him in Wilmington two years later."

Between his senior year and the expansion draft of January 1968, Trumpy was living in Glendale, Cal., and working as a bill collector.

"I didn't last," he said. "Too chicken-hearted. One day I'm in Watts. I called on this little old lady who owed us \$600 and who hadn't come up with as much as a dime. Her house was ramshackle but clean and neat. The furniture was old fashioned. Stuffed chairs. Straight backed. Round lamps with tassel shades. The carpets were worn. But everything was clean.

"The little old lady was very polite to me. She invited me into her living room. She sat me down. We talked about this and that and I asked her for the money. She didn't answer me right away, but asked me if I would please have some tea. I don't like tea, but I felt sorry for her, so I said I'd have some.

Tea was served in exquisite china cups.

"They must've cost plenty when new," he said. "But, now they were old and cracked. Yet, she was very proud of them. 'I don't have any money or many things of value,' she says. 'But, I'll give you this whole tea set as a partial payment for whatever you think its worth.'

"My mouth went dry. I told her not to worry. I'd work something out that would give her a little more time. When I got back to the office I turned in \$4.00 of my own money as a late-charge payment in the old lady's name. You know what? Everybody in the office cheered me. I was a big hero. I got \$4.00 out of a bad debt."

Trumpy quit the next day.

"It wasn't too long after that when I was in that drug store in North Hollywood," he said.

Bob Trumpy smiled. Soon, he knew, the phone would ring and it would be Pat telling him he was drafted by the Cincinnati Beagles, and here he was a guy who'd never even been in Cincinnati...





The Roman Classic: the King, 4-7/8" high, is Emperor Augustus Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus; the Queen, 41/2" high, is Augusta Livia Drusilla; the Bishop, Marcus Tullius Cicero; and so on through the masterful collection of historical figures. All heavily weighted and with quality felt bases, they are molded with high-impact plasticalabaster white and charcoal gray.

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These sets come with a matching silk-screened gray and black folding playing board, 161/2" square. Also included with each set is a 16-page booklet giving an historical outline of each chessman and complete basic rules for the game of chess. The chessmen are securely set in diecut, red velour platforms, in two lift-out leatherette trays. The complete set is packaged in a deep red leatherette presentation chest. The cover is stamped in gold leaf \$17.50 each

No. 135. These sets are hand-antiquated in gold and silver finish to augment set No. 130. More heavily weighted, the chessmen are set in die-cut, emerald green silk velour platforms, in two lift-out leatherette trays. Included with each set is a silkscreened gold and black playing board, 161/2" square, plus a 16-page booklet giving an historical outline of each chessman and complete basic rules of the game of chess. The set is packaged in an elegant, deep green simulated Morocco presentation chest. The cover is stamped in gold leaf \$35.00 each

The Napoleonic Centennial: the King, 5" high, is Napoleon Bonaparte; the Queen, 41/2" high, is Marie Rose Josephine; the Bishop is Charles Maurice de Tallyrand; and so on. The chessmen are molded from the finest quality high-impact styrene, in French beige and imperial blue. They are extra heavily weighted and have quality felt bases.

No. 203.

Each set comes with a matching silk-screened, folded playing board, 161/2" square, and a 16-page booklet giving an historical outline of each chessman and complete basic rules for the game of chess. The chessmen are set in deep red velour platforms, in two lift-out leatherette trays. The complete set is packaged in a luxurious black leatherette presentation case. The cover is engraved in silver leaf \$17.50 each

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These sets are hand-antiquated to a beautiful gold and silver finish. More heavily weighted than No. 203, the chessmen are set in imperial blue silk velour platforms, in two liftout leatherette trays. Included with each set is a silkscreened gold and black playing board, 161/2" square, plus a 16-page booklet giving an historical outline of each chessman and complete basic rules for the game of chess. The complete set is packaged in an exquisite midnight blue simulated Cordovan presentation chest. The cover is engraved in silver leaf\$35.00 each

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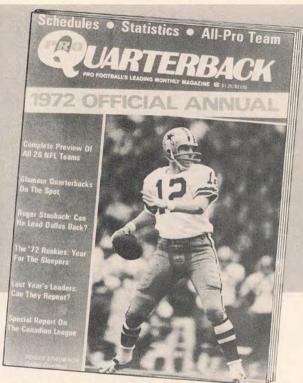
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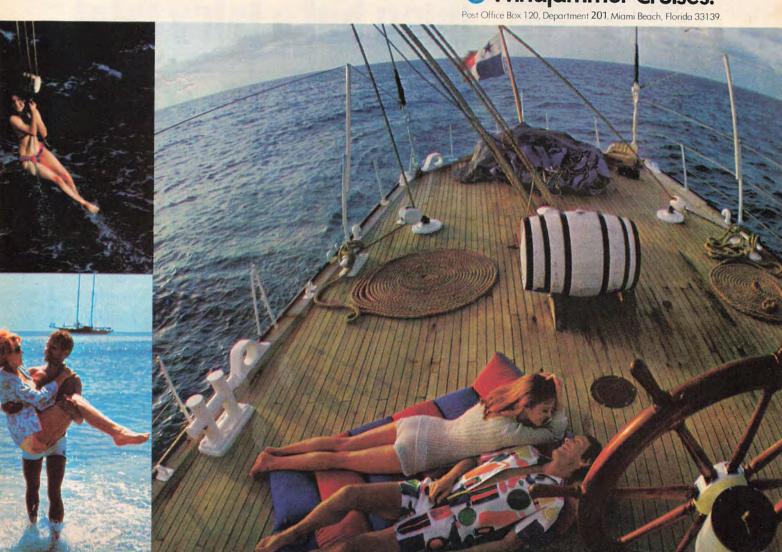
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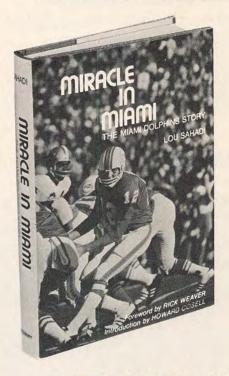
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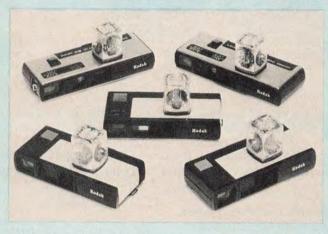
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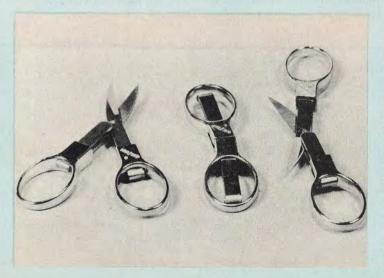
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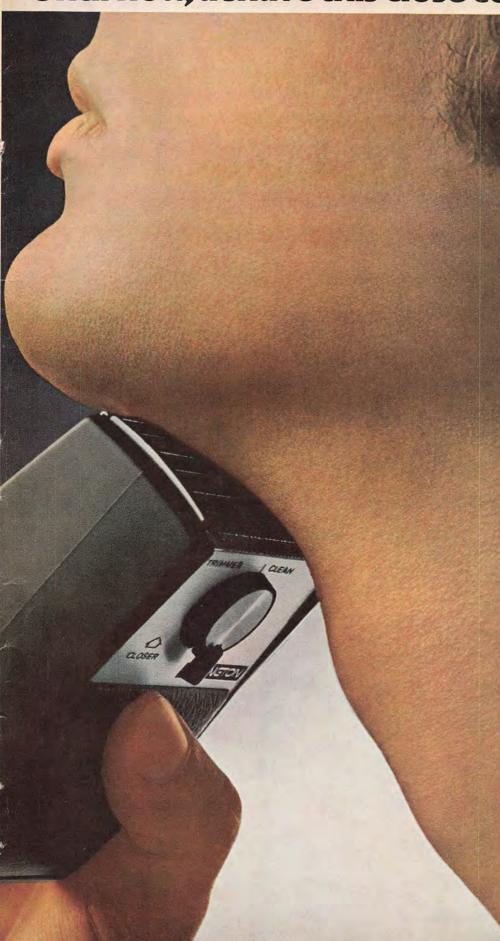
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- The Cowboys' Calvin Hill captured our January, 1972, cover.
- And in March, 1972, the Buffalo Bills' No. 1 draft choice, Walt Patulski, appeared on our cover.
- Our April/May issue highlighted the Dallas Cowboys, the 1972 Super Bowl victors.
- Kansas City's Len Dawson graced our June/July cover.
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